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THURSDAY, MAY 10TH, 2012

LOOK SMART, PLAY SMART!

PUPILS in St Nicholas Primary School are looking smart in their new football kit.

The old school kit, kindly donated by a former parent, Mrs Sharon Harvey, was looking rather bedraggled, and a new kit was required.

A school spokeswoman said: "A tremendous thank you must be given to Mr Martin Stacey, a parent governor at St Nicholas, whose company, Caravan Hospital, sponsored the new school kit, and Mr Wayne Matthews of Classic Sportswear who created such an amazing kit.

"Recently, the school has played a number of matches, thus ensuring that all children have benefited from the new kit.

"In February, we entered a girls and boys team in a year-5 and 6 tournament at Sophia Gardens, and in April the school played against Pendoylan, giving the year-3 and 4 children a chance to play."

Mr Jason Downey (school sports coach and enthusiast) said: "In March, the school played in two tag-rugby tournaments, one at Peterston and the other in Llantwit Major, where we had considerable success and played with good spirit and sportsmanship.

"In my opinion, if the children look smart in a team kit, then they will play as a team and enjoy their sport.

"I'm certain they will wear this kit with pride for years to come."

After Labour's election success...

The cattle market is in limbo

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE future of Cowbridge's cattle market is set for a period in limbo, after Labour became the dominant party on the Vale Council after last week's elections.

This is because, in a last-minute move just before the elections, Labour pledged to scrap the LDP and start all over again.

Other controversial schemes in Cowbridge, including housing developments off St Athan Road, Ystradowen and St Nicholas, will be reconsidered and, if included in a new LDP, will be subject to another round of consultation.

Although Labour does not have a majority – it has 22 seats, while the various opposition parties can total 25 – it is hard to see the now fragmented opposition coming together to outvote it.

(For a full analysis and comments on last week's elections, see page 6).

In the case of the LDP, a rethink seems inevitable because Plaid Cymru, who took six seats on the council, has already come out and said it wants the LDP scrapped too.

The former Plaid leader, Chris Franks, who has returned to the council after winning a seat in Dinas Powys, told The GEM: "If Labour forms the administration, we will hold them to their firm commitment to scrap the flawed LDP. We agree that we should start the process again."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Labour in talks over council

THE future administration of the Vale Council is likely to be decided in the next couple of days, following last week's local elections.

Labour became the biggest party on the council with 22 seats, but fell two seats short of an absolute majority. The party is currently considering whether to work with other parties or to go it alone.

Coun Neil Moore, leader of the Vale Labour group told The GEM: "Our immediate task will be to make sure that Labour's agenda becomes a reality, be it as a minority council or in coalition with another party."

(For more reaction on the elections, please turn to page 6).

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Defeated Leader thanks the voters

FOLLOWING last week's elections and my defeat in the Rhoose ward, I would wish to take the opportunity of thanking everyone who helped in the Conservative campaign, not just in the Rhoose ward, but throughout the Vale.

More importantly, I would like to thank all the residents of the ward for their support, not just at this election, but over the last 13 years, during which I have been proud to represent the ward in which I live.

Gordon Kemp
(***Former Leader of the Vale Council***)

'Why I don't fly out of Cardiff Airport'

COULD I just say how excited I was that one of the directors, Steve Hodgetts, of Cardiff Airport, actually removed their head from the collective bucket of sand to proclaim their innocence in the airport's demise.

Could someone please, therefore, explain if charges are not the issue, why a Rhoose resident has just returned from a holiday in Spain, flying to Malaga, and had to use Bristol airport as the flights were £150 more to fly from Cardiff on the same day and approximately the same time?

I have just looked at availability for October and the cost of a flight from Bristol is £71 and the corresponding flight from Cardiff is – wait for it – in excess of £280... Guess where we'll be flying from again?

It is utterly galling to pass an airport which is on our doorstep, to travel to Bristol because something is obviously not right with the management at Cardiff, who seem quite content to lose customers by the thousands.

I'm firmly in the camp of the politician who remarked a couple of weeks ago, '*either sort it, or sell it to someone that can run an airport*'.

Please don't use the old chestnut of access – because Bristol's access is an absolute nightmare.

John Stroud,
Rhoose.

'No consultation on cattle market'

THE so-called 'Response from Vale councillors' in The GEM (April 19) failed to address any of the issues about the cattle market.

There has been almost no consultation with interested parties – and, indeed, the petition presented to the Leader of the council at the end of last year was not even acknowledged.

The suggested relocation to St Mary Hill has already been ruled out.

There is mention of 'extra care housing for the elderly' but the plan is for residential housing – no doubt yet more executive homes in the half million pound plus bracket.

Where is the "new public parking facility" to go, and will it replace spaces lost at the market?

The whole tone of the 'response' smacked of a done deal, especially when the last sentence read:

"*....there will be no net loss of public parking spaces as a result of any redevelopment of the market site*".

Alec Trousdell
Cowbridge

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews. co.uk

How residents can have their say over planning

A NUMBER of letters to The GEM have protested about the lack of democracy in the planning system and in the production of the Local Development Plan (LDP).

The reality is that the planning system is primarily about enabling development, with a degree of public control, but basically allowing land owners and the market to use their assets.

People often take the public consultation part of planning to mean that planning is democratically controlled by residents and councillors, but unfortunately it's not the case. Planning decisions by councillors are quasi-judicial and cannot be a party political decision; appeals are heard by planning inspectors, based on planning legislation, and Welsh Government politicians can't interfere.

There is some sense in the system being weighted in this way, because many developments would not be allowed by local residents and things would grind to a halt, but the balance is wrong.

Most of our political debate is about balancing the rights of people to do what they want (including with their property/land) and the rights of other people who are affected by what might be done. In planning issues the initiative and the advantage is always with the developers taking action, or with the local authority developing the planning framework. Communities are usually on the defensive and late into the game, as with the Vale LDP, are left facing a mammoth, complex plan or design with little scope for influencing it.

The only way that communities and residents can have a real say is if the local authority engages with residents and communities over the long-term and enables them to discuss what their communities need; as well as discussing the wider needs of the district for jobs, homes, facilities and services and possible developments.

This approach would provide a basis for the local authority to develop the planning framework, and a means to involve residents and communities early in discussions.

The consultation period and process for the Vale LDP was entirely inadequate.

As some of your respondents have commented, '*it came out of the blue*', and this should never be the case.

A new LDP could, and should, be used as a way to involve people in thinking about what's needed for their area and the district as a whole.

Progressive councils consult residents about neighbourhood plans over adequate time and enable residents to contribute to planning and decisions.

John Drysdale,
Barry

LDP: 'GIANT PINCH OF SALT'

THE Conservatives' In-touch election leaflet on the Vale Council's Local Development Plan claimed that "*Your Conservative councillors have tried to ensure that the allocation for housing has been kept to an absolute minimum in your area.*"

Residents in Ystradowen need to take this comment with a giant pinch of salt. Under the LDP, Ystadowen faces an increase of 95 houses, a nearly 50 per cent increase in size.

Far from it being an '*absolute minimum*', this increase is proportionally one of the largest for any Vale village.

Paul Jeremy,
Ystradowen.

Age Cymru, just three years on...

AGE CYMRU, the older people's charity for Wales is three years old and it seems like a long time ago since we formed Age Cymru in 2009, by combining Age Concern Cymru and Help the Aged in Wales.

Over the last three years, Age Cymru has achieved a lot – far too much to mention here.

I'd like to thank your readers for the support we have received from them over the last three years.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the organisations who have supported Age Cymru since 2009, and who still work for us.

Looking to the future, Age Cymru will continue to campaign and work with our partners across Wales to make a difference to the lives of older people.

For further information about Age Cymru, our local partners, getting involved with our work, and making a donation, please visit *www.agecymru.co.uk*

Robert Taylor OBE,
Chief Executive, Age Cymru,
Cardiff.

Poster message

I REALISED it was election season when driving into Dinas Powys I passed a sea of blue posters attached to almost the entire fenceline of the fields separating Dinas from greater Cardiff.

Interesting – I thought, as I continued driving into Dinas – this comparison between the assets of Plaid and Labour supporters, usually small row and semi-detached houses, and those of Tory supporters.

(Name and address supplied)

Tidy team praised

I WOULD like to congratulate 'Tidy Towns Wales' for their excellent work in clearing litter from the walkway between the Morrisons shopping site to the Health Centre.

The unused ground was a litter magnet. I visit Barry every Thursday and use the walkway to and from Morrisons. I try to pick up litter as I walk about the streets.

The trick is knowing where the bins are and estimating, so that a handful does not become an armful. Well done again, to the team who picked up the litter. *Shame on you who dropped the litter.*

Stewart Ward,
Barry

'Come down from your ivory towers!'

I HAVE to say that it is very rare for me to praise a politician, but you must give Leanne Wood AM a massive pat on the back – well done to her for refusing to accept a pay rise of over £23,000 for becoming leader of her party.

It puts to shame the rest of the dire lot in the assembly. How on earth is First Minister Carwyn Jones AM worth over £130,000?

An AM's basic is £53,852, but (he or she) can claim extra for doing other duties.

At a time when the people not only of Wales, but the rest of the UK, are struggling to make ends meet and rely on food banks, mainly due to Victorian decisions made by politicians, it would seem that as soon as they get behind closed doors of their ivory towers, no-one else exists.

It really is high time politicians of all classes were brought down to earth.

For far too long they have had the easy life; it's time for it all to end.

But well done Leanne, you put the rest of the bunch to shame.

D J Radford,
Barry.

Voters' apathy is killing democracy

VOTER turn-out in many parts of Barry has hit rock bottom, in my view disenfranchising those elected.

Our democratic decision-takers know it, but do nothing to repair a system that seriously lacks interest and, therefore,credibility.

For our democracy to survive, we must attract the politically disaffected back to the ballot box, but to do that, fresh thinking and change is needed.

Just compare the French election on Sunday: the levels of public interest; the street scenes; the colour; the young people participating, and the speedy result attracting huge levels of interest.

In contrast, how dull is our electoral system.

It may not appeal to some, but I believe we need to make it easier and more exciting.

For some reason, we have to vote on Thursdays; close many schools to create polling stations; and open them for 15 hours, before spending the next six hours counting sheets of paper.

I was at the count in Barry Leisure Centre on Thursday night (and yes, Friday morning} eventually getting home to the sound of blackbirds breaking the silence and welcoming the sunrise.

We need to make voting less dull; more visible, and more easily reached, if we are to stand any chance of getting the majority of people back voting.

Dennis Harkus,
FocusBARRY supporter.

Council reply on satisfaction survey

IN reply to a recent letter writer to The GEM, thank you for your interest in the recent Vale of Glamorgan Council residents' satisfaction survey.

The fieldwork for the survey was completed in January of this year and the council are currently awaiting the final report from Beaufort Research, the organisation commissioned to undertake the work.

The report is expected on May 18 and will be made available to the public soon after.

If you have any other queries regarding consultation activities in the Vale, please contact: *consultation@vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk.*

Robert Jones,
Consultation Policy Officer,
Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Thanks to supporters

MAY I, through your newspaper, thank all those who returned me and my Plaid Cymru colleagues to the Vale Council, to continue the hard work we have put in over the last decade in this county.

We look forward to working with the new administration to provide Vale residents with the best possible council service to all residents.

We are a top-performing council in many areas, but there is room for much-needed improvement and we thank our supporters for giving us another five years to help with the work.

Chris Williams
Interim leader, Vale Plaid Cymru group

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
10 Thur	10.16	9.5	22.38	9.4
11 Fri	11.04	9.0	23.28	8.8
12 Sat	11.58	8.4		
13 Sun	00.27	8.5	12.57	7.9
14 Mon	01.35	8.0	14.09	7.8
15 Tues	02.45	8.0	15.25	7.9
16 Wed	03.51	8.1	16.23	8.1
17 Thur	04.47	8.4	17.13	8.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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OBITUARY: *Michael Meredith, Cowbridge (20/12/1935 – 01/05/2012)*

Respected Cowbridge campaigner, 'a lovely person, and a very good friend'

IT is with the very deepest regret that we have to report the death of one of the most respected and prominent members of the Cowbridge community, Michael ('Mike') Meredith of Cowbridge

Born in Clunbury, Shropshire, to Lily and Harry, he was educated at Bishop's Castle Grammar school.

His first job was as a reporter on the Tenbury Wells Advertiser, moving on to Barnsley and Cheltenham before working for ICI on their in-house paper in Welwyn Garden City.

He moved to south Wales in the 1960s to work firstly for British Steel at Llanwern, and then British Coal in Llanishen, where he ultimately became head of press and public relations – a job that suited him well, with his keen eye for a story and his ability to get along with almost anyone.

Mike was at British Coal during the miners' strike, "a year of hell" as he described it. A socialist at heart, he found being on the management side hard.

He formed a close working relationship with Philip Weekes, who lived locally, the director of the South Wales coalfield, a friendship which continued after retirement.

In 1998, he suffered a severe heart attack but had an almost immediate by-pass operation. It was fortunate, as this was a time when many others died whilst on the waiting list.

In the early 2000s, he was called out of retirement for a year to head the BBC Wales press office, a last professional fling that he enjoyed enormously.

Mike was involved in much campaigning and organising in Cowbridge. He was active in the Keep Cowbridge Special campaign that successfully saved the cattle market from demolition.

Michael Meredith– he leaves a great hole in the heart of the Cowbridge community.

He worked tirelessly on the Physic Garden project and was skilful and persuasive in organising publicity for the project that helped to raise much needed funding.

Mike believed that Cowbridge was a 'special' place. At the time of his death, he was still full of ideas and plans for the future of the town.

Mike was also chairman of governors at Tynyrheol School, a small primary school in the Garw Valley and was immensely proud of the staff there and the progress that the school made.

He was a kind and instinctively generous man, as any waiter or waitress would testify. Most of all he had an abiding love of people.

He counted himself 'Welsh' for the purposes of rugby, but his real love was football and Shrewsbury Town which he was so happy to have seen promoted on the day that he was taken ill.

He leaves a widow, Leo, son Giles and daughter Sarah, as well as five grand children. He also leaves a great hole in the heart of our community, as everyone here at The GEM, which had a very close association with Mike over many years, can testify.

Mike (on left) with Robert Cope, founder member of the Physic Garden group.

SCHOOL's TRIBUTE

Tynyrheol Primary School headteacher, Martin Griffiths, said: "Everyone at Tynyrheol school is saddened by the loss of Mike Meredith, our chair of governors for the last seven years.

"Mike was a lovely person, a fantastic chair of governors and a very good friend. He made a great contribution to our school during his time on our governing body over 15 years, including fundraising for our computer suite.

"He was a major influence in making Tynyrheol the fine school it is today, and will be sadly missed by all the staff, governors and pupils.

"Mike had time for every person at our school'.

COWBRIDGE CHARTER TRUST'S TRIBUTE

'A tireless worker for the community'

The Trust has been stunned by the sudden death of Mike Meredith, who had been a Trustee of the Cowbridge Charter Trust since its inception in 2003 and was part of a small team of Trustees that oversaw the 750th year celebration of the granting of the first Borough Charter, the start of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, the floodlighting of the Holy Cross Church, the restoration of the Cowbridge Town Walls and the current revival and upgrading of the Old Hall Gardens.

Mike was dedicated to all causes which contributed to the regeneration and improvement of the town and through his unwavering enthusiasm, he fully contributed to the success of those projects, including the development of the Physic Garden.

His background in journalism more than adequately equipped him to publicise the Charter Trust events, developments and projects, which he carried out with his usual majestic use of words and anarchic charm.

Mike will be a great loss to the Charter Trust and his wit, generosity and comradeship will be sorely missed by his fellow Trustees, Linda, Sue, Percy, Dick, Harry, Alan and Mike, and I will miss my friend.

Peter Jones,
Chairman, Cowbridge Charter Trust.

• The funeral takes place on Tuesday, May 15 at 2pm, with a service at Holy Cross church, followed by interment at Cowbridge cemetery and a reception at the Bear Hotel. Family flowers only.

Donations to the British Heart Foundation and Wales Air Ambulance can be made by envelope on the day, or contact www.justgiving.com/mikemeredith

Former Grammar School head Iolo is remembered

On Saturday April 28 at 12.30pm a service of thanksgiving and praise was held in The Church of the Holy Cross, Cowbridge, to honour the memory of Iolo Davies, the last headmaster of Cowbridge Grammar School.

The service, organised by the Cowbridge Grammar School Old Boys Association, was attended by some 150 people, including Iolo's family members and a huge number of his ex-pupils, many of whom had travelled from far and wide (even Canada) for the occasion.

The service concluded with the unveiling and dedication of a memorial tablet to Iolo in the chancel of the church.

A commemorative lunch at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre completed the celebration of this extraordinary man who, as a teacher, boarding master and finally headmaster, devoted his life to Cowbridge Grammar School until its end in 1973.

To coincide with the commemoration of Iolo Davies' life, a biography has been published, written by ex-pupil and boarder Richard Lewis, entitled: '*A Certaine Schoole Master*'.

The book is available direct from the author (contact him on: *info@richardlewis-books.co.uk*) or from Cowbridge Bookshop, 72 Eastgate, Cowbridge.

Author Richard Lewis with his biography of Iolo Davies.

'Collage' lecture at art society

ON Thursday, May 17, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Cardiff artist Julie Shakson who will give a digital presentation and short demonstration of collage techniques followed by a practical session on the basics of collage.

Members are asked to bring along suitable materials – thick paper/card/canvas/board which will withstand additional material being glued to it, and any assortment of pictures, photos or objects that are fine enough to be glued to a 2D surface, as well as PVA and/or contact adhesive.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (from 7pm–9pm) and visitors are welcome.

For further details of the society, see www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.

Charity group formed

A NEW fundraising group for The British Heart Foundation Cymru has been set up in Cowbridge called The Cowbridge Ladies and they are on the lookout for new members.

Their first event is at The Bear Hotel on Monday June 25, called 'Puccini and Prosecco', with artists from the Welsh National Opera.

Local fundraising manager Sharon Owen is very excited about this new Group setting up. She said: "It's an enduring myth that heart disease affects men more than women, but the truth is, heart disease kills one in three women, as well as one in three men.

"Help us to raise awareness and valued funds for The BHF Cymru and join your local Cowbridge Ladies today.

"You will meet new friends, have fun and make a difference! Support will be given by your local fundraising manager."

An informal coffee morning will be held at Arboreal Restaurant in Cowbridge on Thursday June 21 from 10am until 12 noon. For more information contact Sharon on 07730 944700.

Rotary walk in Cowbridge a hit

THE Rotary Club of Cowbridge held a charity fun walk on Sunday, April 22 when more than 60 walkers enjoyed a circular walk from Cowbridge through Llanblethian and St Hilary.

Jane Hutt AM was one of the first to start, and completed the walk in record time. The event raised more than £500 for the charitable work of the Cowbridge Rotary Club.

In addition, some walkers were sponsored and at least another £500 was raised for their charities.

The fun walk was enjoyed so much, that by popular request, it is planned to hold it again next year. The Rotary Club thanks the walkers for their support and others who were unable to attend for their generous donations.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "I enjoyed the Cowbridge Rotary Club Charity Walk immensely. As ever, the scenery and walking conditions were excellent, signposted by Valeways and the Rotary Club posters.

"The bluebells and wild garlic in St Hilary woods were memorable and the marshals kept a look out for the walkers all the way. It was great to be enjoying the walk and raising funds for worthy charities and causes such as Vale for Africa.

"I was also delighted to meet the Rotary Club president and to be presented with a crocus to mark the Rotary Club International's achievements in helping to eradicate polio across the world."

BW

Vale AM Jane Hutt with Rotarian Colin Jones

LIBRARY REOPENS

COWBRIDGE Library has reopened after repair work that was needed when a branch from a tree pierced the roof.

Librarian Melanie Weeks told The GEM that work had been done promptly, and that the building was open for business again after being closed for just two days.

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LYNN AIMS TO CROSS CENTRAL AMERICA ON CYCLING CHALLENGE

by Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

A PETERSTON super Ely resident is gearing up to tackle an international cycling challenge to raise money for research into birthing problems in the UK, and has already completed step one in a Talbot Green shop.

Lynn Finch, who works for Sport Wales in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, cycled the equivalent of 90–100 miles in the shop window of Cotswold Outdoors over the weekend of April 28-29.

This raised £170 towards the cost of her challenge, which will see her travel from Panama to Nicaragua, via Costa Rica.

The trip will be more than 480km and Lynn and her friend and training partner Jackie Brown will have just five days to complete it, sleeping on the roadside in tents along the way.

The money raised will go towards Genesis Research Trust, a charity launched by Sir Robert Winston to look in to the health of mothers and babies, in particular what causes premature births, stillbirths and miscarriages.

Its fundraising arm, Women for Women, sets all-women challenges around the world, and Lynn and Jackie are taking part in one such.

It will be an interesting experience for Lynn, who describes herself as a "comfort-loving, non-cycling wimp".

She told The GEM: "I fundraise every year since I ran the London Marathon in 2005. I pick a different charity every year.

"Jackie was already fundraising for Women for Women so I decided to help her this year. I originally wanted to walk the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path but the logistics of it were just too difficult.

"I thought, well Jackie's already doing this cycle challenge, so why don't I join in? My husband just looked at me and laughed, because I'm no good on a bike.

"My biggest fear was falling off, I had no road sense on a bike and was inexperienced, so I was terrified of traffic. I stopped and gave way to everything but my neighbour, a keen cycler, came out and helped me so I've grown in confidence.

"I've always been confident in getting fit enough, because I ran marathons and half marathons until my knees gave way.

"Jackie and I train two or three times a week; training runs twice a week and then one long run.

"We've been given a great training guide by the charity to follow.

"Sport Wales have also been fabulous. I have access to physios and dieticians and they are all so enthusiastic and keen to help."

Lynn and Jackie have already planned events to help them reach their target of £7,000 to get to Central America. Later this month they have organised a ramble around Ewenny and St Brides Major, with lunch at the Farmer's Arms. Then in June they have organised a bus trip to Bath.

A one-off Zumba event was so popular it now takes place every Thursday at 7pm (term time) at Peterston School Hall, and the showpiece will be a return of the highly successful 'Ladies' Glamour and Sparkle Night' at Peterston Village Hall in October.

To sponsor Lynn, you can visit her fundraising page at: www.justgiving.co.uk/Lynn-Finch, and for more information or to register for one of their events you can email Lynn on: lynn-finch1961@aol.com.

ABOVE: Lynn Finch is in strict training for her cycling challenge.

Cowbridge Book Festival promises a literary feast!

After a busy 'Gruffalo Weekend', Monday May 14 will see the Cowbridge Book Festival set up camp in the Minstrel's Gallery at The Duke of Wellington.

Award-winning novelist Manda Scott will get the day off to a rousing start with her talk about her latest novel *ROME - The Coming of the King*.

Later on in the day, Dr Beau Riffenburgh and his long-time friend and former colleague Dr Russell Thomson discuss their shared experiences in Antarctica.

Antarctic Expeditions: Writing About and Experiencing Them, promises to be a fascinating and informative insight into the trials and tribulations of these intrepid explorers.

A huge leap in time and place will take us to 1066 and an exciting joint presentation by James Aitcheson and Stewart Bins.

They will discuss one of the bloodiest battles in history and the eventual conquest of England.

Debated from opposing sides *Sworn Sword* by James tells the story of a young Norman soldier and Stewart's book *Conquest* is about the English resistance.

For lovers of art, Barry Plummer will be in conversation with Dr Kim Howells, the former Minister for Culture. They will discuss Barry's book *Evan Walters – Moments in Vision*.

This beautiful tome presents for the first time a generous selection of colour reproductions of the paintings of this outstanding but little known artist.

One treat on Thursday will be '*Poetry and Prose from the Banks of the Ogwr*' presented by award-winning poet and author Robert Minhinnick and Rhian Edwards, winner of the 2011 John Tripp Award for spoken poetry.

You should also look out for Jamie Owens's *Journeys in Wales* followed by Tom Bullough's *Konstantin*, the story of the father of the Russian space race.

ABOVE: Manda Scott will talk about her latest novel 'Rome – The Coming of the King'

On Friday, Denis G Campbell's *Egypt Unsh@ckled* charts the 18 days that the world watched spellbound as young patriots seeking freedom used Twitter as a counter to the repressive regime's attempts to shut down the opposition.

On a lighter note, popular broadcaster Lucy Owen will interview Tristan Hogg and Jon Simon about their book *Pieminister - a Pie for all Seasons*.

Not only have this dynamic duo written a brilliantly creative recipe book but their delicious pies are now being sold in the country's top delis.

Fiona Mountain makes a welcome return to the festival to discuss her latest epic historical novel *Cavalier Queen*, based on the life of Queen Henrietta Maria – wife of Charles I.

Lesley Pearse's novels have sold more than four million copies in the UK alone and all have been top three bestsellers.

On Friday Lesley, who is a great favourite at book festivals, will present her latest saga *The Promise*.

Finally, the festival will move to the United Free Church for '*The Story of Wales*, which was previewed in last week's issue.

Details of all festival events, author profiles and how to buy tickets can be found on the website www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk .

Alternatively, tickets are also available from Barnes (Drycleaners), Old Hall or phone 01446 774827.

Cattle market future depends on new LDP

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Speaking before the election, the Labour group leader, Coun Neil Moore, said that all aspects of the plan would be looked at, but he made it clear that, in Labour's opinion, the eastern Vale was being asked to take too much of the housing allocation.

He said this was bad because of the loss of green spaces, and also because the development was going ahead with no regard to whether the roads and general infrastructure could cope with the increased number of residents.

Another question that will arise is just how long Labour has to work on a new LDP.

Coun Neil Moore told The GEM that it would take as long as was necessary, and had insisted that there was no formal deadline for lodging the plan with the Welsh Assembly.

However, Coun Jeff James said that time was a major factor, because the LDP had already been delayed by 18 months.

This was because developers who wanted to build 'Llandow Newydd' – a development of more than 2,000 homes, a school, shops and business space – took the Vale Council to court after Llandow Newydd was not included in the LDP as a candidate site.

He said that if the council fell too far behind the deadline, the Assembly could move in and take it over – a prospect Coun Moore dismissed.

A GEM query to the Assembly at the time, asking for clarification over whether there was a firm deadline, did not receive a definitive answer.

Labour are in control, of course, because it was a disastrous night for the Conservatives, who started the night with 25 councillors and ended with 11.

It was a bloodbath, in particular, for the cabinet members, where six out of 10 lost their seats (including the Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp).

The only cabinet members to survive were Coun Jeff James, Coun Rhodri Traherne, and the two Cowbridge councillors, Coun Geoff Cox and Coun Hunter Jarvie.

Although Couns Cox and Jarvie came under pressure as a result of public protests over the future of the cattle market, in the end the Conservative fortress that is Cowbridge saw off the siege quite comfortably.

However, their votes did fall compared to four years ago, when Coun Cox (1,751 votes), Coun Jarvie (1,593), and Coun Val Ellis (1,668) were miles ahead of Labour's Alex Still, who polled 647.

This year, Labour put forward two candidates, Alex Still again and Camilla Beaven, and they polled 854 and 920 respectively.

For the Conservatives, Coun Cox polled 1,334, Coun Jarvie 1,232, and Andrew Parker, who replaced Coun Ellis after she decided not to stand again, received 1,188.

The Conservatives blamed their losses elsewhere on a protest vote against the UK Coalition Government.

But how much of the reduced Conservative vote in Cowbridge is down to that, and how much was down to the cattle market furore, is hard to quantify.

One thing is clear, that the future of the cattle market (and of housing developments in the area) now lies with the Labour party – with independents in Barry and Llantwit Major holding the balance of power if it were to come to a vote.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

CHILDREN at Llangan Primary School have had an exciting week of story telling, when year-3 and 4 were delighted to welcome author Anna Wilson, as part of the Cowbridge Book Festival.

She discussed her animal books and read short passages from some of them.

The children were keen to take part and related many funny incidents which had happened with their own pets, which could be used in their own stories.

Following the May Day bank holiday, poet Kate Williams will be working with the children and on May 15, Catherine Fisher 'The Young Persons' Welsh Laureate', will be working with children in year-5 and 6.

My thanks once again to headteacher Mary Noyes for the information in this report.

Hogaroc

TICKETS have been in great demand for the 'Hogaroc,' which will take place on Saturday, May 19 at Penllyn Court Farm, Penllyn, at 7.30pm–12.30am.

Call Mary Crandon on 01656 861933 for tickets.

Wash 'n' Go
New Hand Car Wash Standard £5 and Car Valeting
Unit 2, Crossways Business Park, Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge. CF71 7LJ
Call Martin 07760 404091

Cylch Meithrin in 'Toddle Waddle'

'QUACKING Work Toddlers' at Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen took part in a nationwide Toddle Waddle to raise money for the Meningitis Trust.

The plucky youngsters had great fun as they waddled their way around Cowbridge to raise money for the charity.

Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen is a Welsh Language Nursery School in Cowbridge; for more information call us on 01446 776250.

Bu plant bach Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen yn brysur iawn yn casglu arian ar gyfer elusen y Meningitis Trust.

Fel rhan o gynllun cenedlaethol 'The Toddle Waddle' bu'r plant yn cerdded o gwmpas caeau'r Bontfaen er mwyn codi arian.

Roedd pawb wedi mwynhau yn fawr. Am fwy o wybodaeth a weithgareddau'r Cylch cysylltwch a ni ar 01446 776250.

Local boy plans to devote one year to Thai charity project

A COWBRIDGE sixth-former is raising money to meet the cost of spending a year on a charity project in Thailand.

To help raise the cash, Simon Gooding, an 18-year-old pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, is doing a sponsored cycle in Cowbridge on May 12 and 13, along with five supporters.

They will take turns on two exercise bikes, from 9am to 5pm each day, aiming to cover around 600 miles over the two days.

Simon said: "I am raising money for my work starting in August with 'Operation Mobilisation' on their ship *Logos Hope*.

"People in Cowbridge may know me from working in Strawberry Fields on a Saturday."

Simon has been accepted as a volunteer with Operation Mobilisation, and in August, he will be flying to Thailand to join the ship *Logos Hope* for a year.

He said: "I will be bringing education, building work, food and support to people in need on my journey as part of the team.

"*Logos Hope,* incidentally, is the largest floating book shop in the world! I will also be part of the deck crew, which will give me training and experience in fire safety.

"I have wanted to join the local fire service for some time and will be pursuing this on my return. This volunteer charity project will cost me £650 per month for a year. The money will cover my food, accommodation and the materials that we use to help people in need."

Simon is looking for support from the community to raise the funds. He said: "If anyone would like to support me financially, please go to the website *http://www.uk.com.org/online-giving/give-person.html* under Simon Gooding/Logos Hope

"Alternatively, call in to the gym on May 12/13 or see me in Strawberry Fields on a Saturday."

News from Y Bont Faen Primary...

THE last term seems to have whizzed past since the ever-popular third eistedfodd in Y Bont Faen Primary.

The children produced some lovely art work for the eistedfodd competition and 'The Teabag of Doom', *AKA* **Izzy Lowe**, produced this splendid poem:

THE FOREST:

When I came to a place where the sun was low and the ground was hard and crisp, the trees were bare and the floor was littered with decaying leaves covered in frost as crisp as can be,

I could hear the snapping and crackling of the branches beneath my feet.

I could see the frost glistening like jewels on the crisp ground.

I could smell the fresh sharp smell of the wintery air as it brushed by my face.

I could see the ivy crawling and twisting around the branches of the trees,

I could hear the distant sound of traffic and the river swirling ferociously as the wind passed over.

I felt cold but also happy and cheerful to be out in the fresh morning air.

I drew a breath and stood for a moment taking in the wonderful scene.

I took nothing but a memory of all the brown, curled, twisted leaves and the archway of trees that made it all so magical,

I left a footprint, never to be seen, always to be remembered.

Classes

The craft entries included hand puppets of The Queen by Eve Bird, Yo Yo Clown by Elin Morris, Animations by Owen John, Dragon Boat by Harvey Kwan, photos from Abigail Cooke and painting by Harry Treharne, plus many more!

Every class had a poem to learn and they were judged by their house colours, a narrow victory was had by Tim Glas.

We have since been visited by Derek the weather man, interviewed Lucy and Rhodri Owen, raised funds for Sport Relief, had our egg Olympics, taken part in the Face Britain world record attempt, designed a winning Royal Mint Diamond Jubilee poster and shared our children's work in a fabulous sharing day at the end of last term which was supported by all of our family.

The new term started back with Deputy Head Mr Lloyd heading up a more able and talented art day for the schools in the rural Vale cluster.

In all, 10 schools participated in this now annual activity, culminating in an exhibition for the pupils, their guardians and teachers at the end of the day.

It was a true celebration of the work of those gifted and talented children that attended.

The whole day was based on blending and mixing colours using tonal, vivid and vibrant colours.

The pupils worked on colours, shape and pattern, learning how to draw self portraits, iconic pictures and coloured bottles. They also produced 3D models using coloured paper based on what they had learnt.

The children were from years 5 and 6, and it gave them a chance to work with other talented children from our cohort of schools.

The day culminated in 'A vision of a comet', which inspired some very colourful interpretations.

Year-6 pupils were also inspired by the CBBC programme Space Hoppers.

We invited Iolo Morganwg to join us in our hall for a presentation of Space Hoppers, presented by author Mark Brake and CBBC presenter John Chase, who have been touring the country with the Hay Scribblers.

The programme is a spinoff from Mark's book 'Really Really Big Questions about Space and Time'.

It was part of the Cowbridge Book Festival activities and was enjoyed by all who attended as it was full to the brim with lots of visual props to entertain the children from blueberries to big yellow balloons, representing the various relative size of the planets!

They even named one Dave as it was easier to pronounce than its real name!

YBF jumble sale

Y Bont Faen school ECO council held their first ever ECO jumble sale to help reduce, reuse and recycle old clothes, books and toys for the family.

The children were helped by parents in the sorting of the jumble and then it was over to them to display and sell their wares.

They eagerly filled tables up with books and puzzles and everything was presented beautifully! Year-5 pupils Arthur, Eve and Bethany will surely make excellent sales managers when they are older – they were coordinating their rounding up of the parents into the hall with military precision and then bombarding them with their sales pitch!

They managed to raise nearly £120 towards the poly tunnel they want for their gardening club, which was no mean feat!

The ECO Council have been beavering away with many recycling projects recently as they really want this equipment.

So many of the children enjoy gardening club and this will enable it to go on longer throughout the school year!

Their community spirit and generosity ended with them sharing our leftovers with the Cowbridge Book Festival's book swop, and donating some extra toys to the popular after-school club.

Next week, the leftover clothes will be going off in our biannual sale to bags2school – now that is really green!

JAYNE MORRIS

ABOVE:
Harvey Kwan and his entrant – Dragon Boat.

The ECO council sold Mrs Jones a Vale recycling bag to show its commitment to recycling.

Alice (year-1) with her posh new earrings for only 10p – what a bargain!

Eve Bird and her hand puppet of The Queen.

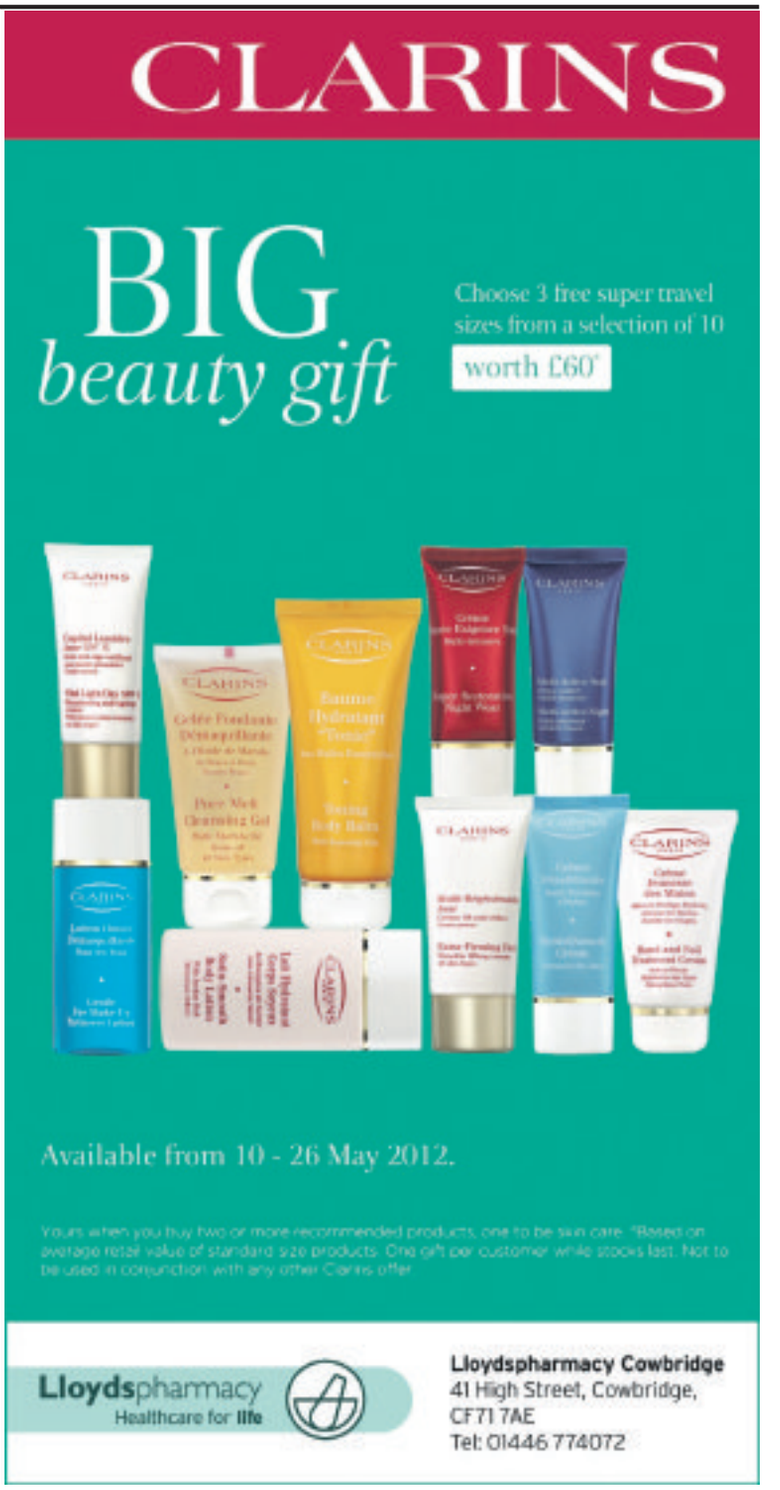
'Thank you for voting'

WE would like to thank those who supported us in the recent local council elections by electing us to represent Cowbridge ward on the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

We would like to assure your readers that we will represent the whole community, to the best of our abilities.

We also take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the other candidates for conducting a fair and honourable campaign.

Geoff Cox,
Hunter Jarvie,
Andrew Parker.



LABOUR PLAN NEW ADMINISTRATION AS...

Conservatives lose control of Vale Council on night of despair

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Labour Party in the Vale of Glamorgan, which gained 10 seats in the local election but fell two short of an overall majority, is currently in discussions as to whether it should run a minority administration or work in coalition with another group.

One thing the party has pledged is that it will not work with the Conservatives.

Coun Neil Moore, the leader of the Labour group, told The GEM: "We had tremendous success throughout the Vale and that has been borne out by the fact that we have secured 10 extra seats and are now the majority party on the Vale Council with 22 seats.

"Obviously, we have not secured an overall majority and need to consider all options on working to set up a new progressive council."

Coun Moore said the party's 'positive pledges' had won people over.

"The Tories had four years to implement some of the things we promised, like the re-introduction of traffic wardens in towns, grime fighters to tackle the graffiti, dog fowling and litter problems throughout the Vale, not to mention sorting out the appalling state of the roads."

Coun Moore also identified the LDP – the Local Development Plan – as a key issue in the election.

"Clearly the flawed and unsustainable LDP had an impact in the campaign and our pledge to scrap the current 'draft plan' and to go back to the drawing board had some effect in some wards.

"National politics must have also had a marked effect on the way the public voted. The Tory and Lib Dem Government are clearly out of touch with real people and are hitting those most vulnerable in our society."

Coun Moore said there was a strong perception that the Government did not understand the problems people were facing.

"Our immediate task, will be to make sure that Labour's agenda becomes a reality, be it as a minority council or in coalition with another party, although that party will certainly not be the Conservatives!"

The Vale's AM, Jane Hutt, congratulated the elected Labour councillors, adding: "I will be working with them to represent and serve all our constituents through this challenging time for public authorities, to do everything we can to safeguard services and to help renew our economy."

Local politicians will hope to have a clear idea of how the Vale Council will be run by the weekend.

'NATIONAL TREND'

Gordon Kemp, the Leader of the Vale Council, who lost his seat in Rhoose, said he still planned to serve his local community.

"The result was very disappointing but clearly reflected the national trend which often occurs with the mid-term of the national Government - a Government which is failing to get across its message at the present time.

"It is unfortunate that the problems left by the Labour Government seem to have faded so quickly from people's minds and it is regrettable that so many councillors who had served the community well over the years lost their seats as a consequence.

"Whatever the complexion of the in-coming administration, it will inherit a well run council and I'm sure the Conservative group will hold it to account whenever it is appropriate."

He added: "On a personal note, I was disappointed by the Rhoose result, but we live in a democracy, and this will hopefully not prevent me from continuing to serve the community."

Six out of the 10 Conservative Vale cabinet members lost their seats – Councillors Dorothy Turner, Anthony Ernest, Tony Hampton, Paul Church, Janice Charles and Gordon Kemp.

Labour now has 22 councillors; the Conservatives have 11; Plaid has six ; Llantwit First Independents have four; there are three independents; and UKIP one councillor.

But the damage to the former ruling party wasn't just inflicted by the Labour Party.

Coun Kemp fell to an independent in Rhoose. Philip Clarke polled 882 votes to Gordon Kemp's 727. In the same Rhoose ward, Coun Jeff James, a former Vale Leader himself, retained his seat with 810 votes.

Coun Anthony Ernest in Sully, the Mayor of Penarth, lost out to independent Bob Penrose (876 votes) and UKIP's Kevin Mahoney (633 votes).

The Conservatives will be particularly disappointed that in Sully former Coun Ernest and former Coun Sarah Sharpe polled just 684 votes between the two of them.

Labour were delighted to win 10 more seats, and scored clean sweeps in a number of wards – Buttrills (where former Vale Leader Margaret Alexander topped the poll with 742 votes) Cadoc, Castleland, Cornerswell, Dyfan, Gibbonsdown, Illtyd, Llandough and St Augustine's.

Dinas Powys, known mischievously as *The People's Republic of Plaid*, lived up to its nickname by returning four Plaid Cymru members – and saw a return to the Vale Council of former Assembly Member Chris Franks, who topped the poll with 1,515 votes.

Baruc ward remains a Plaid stronghold, but elsewhere the party was squeezed and in some wards trailed behind the independents.

Llantwit Major saw a clean sweep with four Llantwit First Independents being returned for the first time. The Tories' Coun John Clifford, the current Vale Mayor, missed out.

Coun Richard Bertin was returned by voters in the Court ward despite his switch from Labour to the independent fold.

There appears to be an 'independent' phenomena developing with four Llanwit First Independents and three individual independent candidates elected. Some independents who failed to get elected managed to get more votes than some of the candidates from the established parties.

The turnout was 39 per cent.

Where Teddies dare, for children's cause

by Leigh Gruffydd Sanders

A TEDDY bear who performed a daring parachute jump last year in aid of the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal is set to repeat the feat this year – but strapped to a long-time friend!

Donald Davies with Aberfan Taff and Roland Rat.

Aberfan Taff is a stuffed animal who was originally purchased by owner Donald Davies, of Cadoxton, to raise money for the families of those tragically lost in the Aberfan Disaster of 1966.

After hitting the headlines last year for taking part in the event, he will now return with friend Roland Rat to perform a tandem jump as this year's fundraiser at St Cadoc's Church, Cadoxton.

The jump will take place on May 20, and anyone who wants to lend their support and see their bear jump from the church tower is welcome to come forward.

Mr Davies explained to The GEM: "I bought Roland Rat over 25 years ago while my wife was recovering from a serious heart operation in hospital.

"I was visiting and walked around the shops there and because she was feeling down I bought it for her. She kept it, and ever since she died they have always sat on the bed together where she left them."

The operation is professionally executed. All bears are weighed for their parachute to be fitted and have to undergo a medical. Once passed, they perform the jump and children dressed as doctors and nurses are on hand to take 'hurt bears' to the 'medical tent'.

They then receive a certificate to say they completed the feat.

Operation Christmas Child is described by Samaritan's Purse as the "world's largest children's Christmas appeal" and consists of children and parents donating shoeboxes full of gifts for impoverished children in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Last year alone they delivered 1.12 million shoeboxes to children in need and they hope for that to continue.

"I love this event," added Mr Davies of the parachute jump.

"I agree with the charity and what they do is great.

"A small shoebox of goodies going to children is big; some of them have never had something like that before. It helps children who haven't got a lot."

But parachute jumps aren't Aberfan Taff's first attempts at fundraising, as Mr Davies explains:

"I bought Aberfan Taff in Aberfan for £2 in 1966 – a lot of money back then – to support the relief fund for the 144 people killed in the landslide.

"The teddies were made to raise money for the families and I am delighted that he is still raising money today."

If people would like to get involved in the event, and want more information, they should contact the organiser Shirley Powell on 01446 749689.

We need councillors' support to protect Cowbridge countryside

I WONDER if those of your readers who objected to the proposed development of the St Athan road site as part of the Vale LDP were as disappointed as I was to receive such an unhelpful response from local councillors, after I had expressed my objections.

It seems that rather than expressing any opinion, or committing support to fighting for our cause, the councillors choose to inform us in an election leaflet that the LDP plan was not their (party's) idea but was the result of Plaid and Labour coalition.

My response to them would be, this fact is of little interest and doesn't help.

Blaming others seems mandatory in politics, especially when elections draw near...

I don't want councillors who are expert at blaming others representing Cowbridge, I want councillors who will act in the best interests of the town.

Please, councillors, can we have less blaming, and more lobbying in support of our cause?

Michael Higgins, Llanblethian.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

CORRECTION: The next local produce market will be held at the church hall, St Brides Major, on Saturday May 19, (not May 10 as previously stated).

THE local library service is proving a success and is open five hours a week – Wednesday 3.15pm-4.15pm and 5pm-7pm, and Saturday 10am-12 noon. A cup of tea is also available at the Parish coffee and chat morning on Saturdays.

Also now available at the library are the green waste bags at £1 each and free poop/scoop bags.

ST BRIDES MAJOR Parish was well represented at Llandaff Cathedral when the Queen visited to start the celebrations of her Diamond Jubilee in Wales on April 26.

The Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam and the priest in charge of our Parish, and his wife Sheila attended, as did Sir Geoffrey and Lady Inkin of Castle-upon-Alun, and Tony Davies of Wildflower Cottage, Pitcot, one of St Bridget's bell ringers. A great honour for them all!

ON Friday April 27, a prize bingo was held at the church hall in aid of funds for the Diamond Jubilee Carnival to be held on Saturday June 8.

A very successful evening with lots of lovely prizes and the 'caller', Rosemary Roughley, was very humorous, particularly when it came to the auction at the end of the evening (she has certainly missed her vocation).

Everyone enjoyed the tea and coffee with a Welsh cake.

A big thank you to all the helpers for making it a happy evening enjoyed by all.

Local Diamond Jubilee party

BONVILSTON will be holding a Diamond Jubilee party on Saturday June 2, starting at 3.30pm at the Reading Room.

The party is for villagers, friends and family and will have old fashioned games in the afternoon, including wiggly wire, splat the rat, hook a duck, coconut shy and pin the tail on the corgi.

These, together with the regular skittles competition for children and adults, and the tug of war event, should make for a great afternoon.

There will also be a competition for the best home-made crown and best Jubilee fancy dress (adults and children).

With a licensed bar and barbecue running throughout the day the celebrations will be concluded with a Jubilee-themed quiz starting at 7.30pm. **PF**

Kelly's the hero for golf society

THE Blacksmith's Golf Society recently held their first fixture of the season on the popular Coed y Mwstwr course.

Torrential rain left players fearing the worst, but the skies cleared and excellent work by the groundstaff saw the course in remarkably fine condition.

After a back nine countback, Southerndown's Richard Kelly won the stableford competition from Bill Aspinall.

A similar situation occurred for third place, where Gareth John pipped St Athan's Roy Whitehouse.

John Campbell won the longest drive award but for nearest the pin, the 17th green proved too challenging (and obviously small !) for the participants. CG

News from the Ystradowen WI

OUR May meeting took place at the village hall on Wednesday, May 2.

Vice president Moira May chaired the meeting. First on the agenda was the 2012 resolution. This year only one resolution has been put forward that received strong support from WI groups across the country.

It reads: "The NFWI calls on the government to increase investment in the training, employment and retention of midwives in England and Wales to ensure that services are adequately resourced and are able to deliver a high standard of care."

Gaynor Thompson drew our attention to an alarming report in the Times on the increase in the death rate of mothers giving birth.

In London it has in fact doubled. After a short discussion members voted unanimously in favour of the resolution.

Moira next chaired the business for the month.

She welcomed our young visitor, Jeanette Leeke's daughter Charlotte, who we were all very pleased to welcome.

Arrangements for the August trip to Abbey Cwm Hir have been finalised and members are requested to pay at the June Meeting.

The charity walk for Macmillan planned for May has been delayed until August.

Jan Foyle has kindly offered to host a buffet supper at her home following the walk.

Ystradowen WI has been presented with a certificate to mark our 25th anniversary.

Mary O'Leary reminded members of the Cowbridge book festival this month and appealed for helpers with refreshments.

A wartime murder mystery and lunch with be held in the village hall on Tuesday June 26.

Four tickets, at £12 each, are allocated for each institute.

The monthly walk will be on May 16 and there will be coffee in the vestry on May 23.

The competition for a member's baby photograph was won by Diane Coxhill.

We concluded the evening in a light-hearted fashion. Sheena introduced members to New Age Kurling.

This proved to be great fun.

The finalists were Diane and Olive against Val Owen and Gaynor Powney. The triumphant winners were Gaynor and Val. ***EL***

So many things to see (and do) as the Vale moves forward

DISCOVER the Shape of a Nation, was the title of the official opening of the Wales Coastal Path which took place on May 5.

With the sun shining in Cardiff Bay, I met and congratulated my Ministerial colleague, John Griffiths AM, who formally launched the 870-mile path along the whole of the Welsh coast – a world first!

The beautiful Vale coastline forms part of the Wales Coastal Path, and one of the walks was mentioned in a feature in Saturday's national UK press – from Ogmore by Sea to Llantwit Major. It's a wonderful walk, parts of which I have regularly enjoyed.

I intend to walk the Vale coastal section over the coming months as I am sure will many of the 100,000 visitors expected to come to Wales as a result of the investment the Welsh Government has put into the path.

This has been developed in partnership with local authorities, Countryside Council for Wales, land owners, farmers, ramblers and all those who are keen on walking and tourism.

The Vale Walking Festival takes place next weekend (May 11-14) and I shall be joining a Sunday walk in the rural Vale.

This is a great festival with guided walks, good companionship and so much to enjoy, regardless of the weather! Don't forget you can still sign up to the Festival walks and find out what is available by visiting: www.valeways.org,uk or contacting Valeways on 01446 749000.

Concerts

OVER the past fortnight there have also been a number of concerts in the Vale, as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Music Festival.

Opening the first night at the Memorial Hall in Barry with the inspiring Gavin Bryers Ensemble, I also enjoyed the Mavron Quartet at Fonmon Castle and a talk and concert at Barry's Art Central last Sunday.

Throughout the week concerts were held in Vale venues including Cowbridge Comprehensive School, St Donat's Arts Centre and Ewenny Priory.

I also look forward to the Beyond the Border Storytelling Festival and the National Eisteddfod in July and August.

So much has changed over the past week with momentous political events taking place here in the Vale, Wales, UK and in Europe.

We are certainly discovering the 'political shape' of our nation this week as we congratulate newly elected councillors across Wales.

Elections

Here in the Vale, I congratulate Coun Neil Moore as the new Leader of the County Council, with his team of 22 Labour councillors, who campaigned tirelessly for their successful results that came through on Thursday night and the early hours of Friday morning.

As ever, I will be working with them to represent and serve all our constituents through this challenging time for public authorities to do everything we can to safeguard services and to help renew our local economy for our young people, families and businesses.

The Vale is a vital county for economic opportunity supported by the Welsh Government.

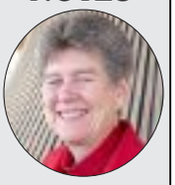
The announcement of over 1,500 new jobs coming to St Athan as part of the Enterprise Zone, supported by Iron Maiden star Bruce Dickinson, is brilliant news.

The setting up of the Cardiff Airport Task Force by the First Minister, Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM, is also excellent. As he said: "*Cardiff Airport is integral to the fabric of our national infrastructure. I am committed to making Cardiff Airport realise its true potential as a modern, competitive, thriving and commercially successful airport, which is a key economic driver and source of pride for the people of Wales.*"

The Vale is moving forward, economically and socially .

I am proud to be part of the team to help make this happen.

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

Local charities benefit at Vale of Glamorgan Mayor's masked ball

Pictures by **JOHN O BEIRNE**

ABOVE: The Vale Mayor, Coun John Clifford and his wife Christine with some of their guests.

LEFT: Supporters of the charities Action for Children and Llamau.

LEFT: Supporters from Myeloma UK, one of the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor's charities for his year in office.

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun John Clifford, has said a big 'thank you' to the people who attended his charity ball at Dyffryn Gardens.

He told The GEM: "It was a great evening, despite the appalling weather conditions – it was more like November than April!

"Cresta Caterers provided excellent food and service and the Bridgend Swing Band entertained us with lively music for dancing.

"The amount raised so far for my three charities is £1,300."

The charities that benefit are Myeloma UK,Action for Children and Llamau.

Spitfire recalled

I WAS very interested in Christopher Short's letter in last week's GEM, referrinthe g to the arrival of Vickers Armstrong Spitfires at Duxford Aerodrome in 1938.

I cycled to Duxford to see the Empire Air Display at the age of 10 years to see a Spitfire. I remember an interesting competition by aircraft displaying their landing distances.

A Tiger Moth was followed by a Lysander; both had a short distance landing. They were then followed by one of the new Spitfires. Unfortunately, the pilot forgot to lower the undercarriage wheels, and the Spitfire slithered to a stop with a damaged under carriage and the propellor bent badly.

I cycled to Duxford from Cambridge, where I lived, several times during the war and got quite friendly with soldier guards. One of them showed me the details of a new plane.

It turned out to be the new Mosquito. So much for secrecy!

Robin Digby,
Dinas Powys.

AM's lung test highlights Cystic Fibrosis Week

VALE AM Jane Hutt had her lung function tested to see how her result compared with someone with Cystic Fibrosis, to highlight the devastating impact of the disease for Cystic Fibrosis Week 2012.

The event, held on April 26, and organised by the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, indicated to AMs first hand how Cystic Fibrosis damages the lungs. The average lung capacity for an adult with Cystic Fibrosis is just 65.1 per cent, compared to someone without Cystic Fibrosis that would achieve results of 80 per cent or more.

Ms Hutt AM achieved 119 per cent on their spirometry test, coming in first place amongst fellow AMs.

She said: "I was delighted to attend the event to show my support for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

"Having my lung function tested has shown me how much more effort people with CF have to make just to take a breath.

"I can see how arduous the burden of treatment is to try to stop lung function from declining.

"I hope as many people as possible take part in an event in their area during CF Week to help to raise awareness and fundraise for research and support for CF."

More information about Cystic Fibrosis Week, which runs from April 29-May 5, can be found at: www.cfweek.org.uk.

Marketing group 'raises the profile of the Vale'

VALE Marketing Group's conference held recently at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge was led by Chair of the group, Mandy Davies of Crossways House.

It was addressed by the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, who commented: "It was so good to see a strong turnout for this event, which really supports the aspirations we all have for the communities of the Vale, to live, work and welcome tourists to such a beautiful part of Wales.

"Recent figures show that 11.2 per cent of people living in the Vale are employed in the tourism and hospitality sectors, with many more living further afield by working in the Vale.

"Members of the Vale Marketing Group and associated delegates are the backbone of the successful tourism business in the Vale.

"The group plays an important role in heightening awareness and profile of the Vale throughout Wales, the UK and further afield. I believe it's crucial that the tourism industry receives appropriate support from public organisations and government.

"The VMG works hard to develop partnerships and links with a myriad of public and commercial organisations.

"With the National Eisteddfod coming to Llandow this summer, the huge event will put the Vale in the spotlight as never before and act as a shop-window for general economic and tourism investments in the Vale."

Swoosh: 'say no to cyber bullies'

CYBER bullying campaigners Swoosh have been visiting local schools to deliver workshops on staying safe online, beating cyber bullying and where to get help.

The idea for these workshops was to use art to get the message across of staying safe online by looking at four themes; 'Protect It' – protecting personal information, 'Who is It?' – knowing who you're talking to online, 'Stop It' – stopping cyber bullying, and 'Report It' – knowing where to go to report abuse or bullying.

These four themes were represented across four canvases, with students using their artistic skills to create colourful works of art that spread a powerful message.

The first arty workshop took place at Beechwood College. Around six students joined in for a full day of drawing, painting and getting a bit messy!

The second school visited was Ashgrove School in Penarth, where 30 students built ideas and sketches for their four canvases.

Beechwood and Ashgrove are proudly showcasing the artwork in their buildings for all to see and admire.

For more information about being safe online and reporting bullying visit: http://www.swoosh.me.uk.

VALE AM's SURGERY

VALE of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Saturday, May 12 at Llantwit Major Old School, Wine Street, CF61 1RZ, from 10am-12 noon.

PACT meetings in the Vale

Barry

ILLTUD PACT public meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, May 16 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry.

DYFAN and GIBBONSDOWN joint PACT surgery will be held between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Thursday, May 17 at Winston Road, Barry. Look out for 'TREV', The Reassurance and Engagement Vehicle.

COURT PACT public meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday, May 30 at the Scout Hall, Everard Street, Barry.

Barry Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted on Barry 01446 731623 or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

Vale

WENVOE 'Coffee and Chat' will be held on Thursday, May 10 at the Beech Tree Inn, near Wenvoe at 11am.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT public meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15 at Llantwit Leisure Centre at 7pm.

RHOOSE PACT public meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17 at Celtic Way Community Centre at 7pm.

Neighbourhood policing teams: Llantwit Major (01656 896447) or Cowbridge (01656 869450) or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

Penarth

DINAS POWYS PACT public meeting will be held on Monday, May 14 in St Mary's Church Hall at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT public meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17 in Penarth Leisure Centre at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT public meeting will be held on Monday, May 28 in Llandough War Memorial Hall at 7pm.

STANWELL PACT public meeting will be held on Friday, May 25 in Elfed Avenue United Church at 7pm.

The local neighbourhood policing team can be contacted on Penarth (02920 527361) or you can log onto www.ourbobby.com.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ROADSHOW PAYING CASH FOR GOLD, SILVER, COINS AND ANTIQUES 8TH THROUGH 12TH MAY!

By Jason Williams
STAFF WRITER

"It's a modern day goldrush as precious metal prices soar due to the unstable economy—it's a seller's market" says Archie Davis, Roadshow Representative.

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to start your cleaning early this year. The Treasure Hunters Roadshow opens Tuesday 8th May in Bridgend and is looking for antiques and collectables. Remember those Dinky cars you played with as a kid? What about those old Hornby train sets? You know, the ones that have been stored away in the attic for the past 30 years. Well it's time to dig 'em out, along with any other

TREASURE HUNTERS ROADSHOW HAS BEEN TOURING THE WORLD SINCE 2001. THIS YEAR ALONE, WE WILL VISIT 3,000 CITIES AND OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WILL CASH IN!

forgotten treasures. You might be sitting on a small fortune and not even know it.

Roadshow representative, Archie Davis, explains what the event is all about. "It's a chance to get paid today, on the spot, for your classic collectibles. We host over 3,000 shows every year throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Toys, dolls, trains, pocket watches, old advertising signs, gold jewellery, coins, antiques and collectables, just about anything can be sold at the Roadshow. This event is popular because it puts money in people's pockets. At a typical show, we will see hundreds of people during the five day event. We will see a few unusual items, but mostly we will see a lot of old coins, gold jewellery, and a wide variety of antiques and collectibles. Last week at a show in Colchester, a retired dentist walked in with over 2 lbs. of dental gold fillings. "I would say that is pretty unusual, wouldn't you say?" commented Davis. The gentleman received over £5,000 for his gold fillings. He told Davis that over the years he would keep the extracted teeth when the owners didn't want them. He would throw them in a jar and over the years it added up to over 2 lbs. of gold. Now, not everyone has a jar of gold teeth lying around, but according to Archie, more than you might think have some sort of gold they can cash in. Davis says, "The Roadshow receives a fair amount of gold each day of the 5 day event."

Above—Roadshow Specialist analyzes a gold ring brought in by a local resident in Edinburgh.

Broken jewellery, gold coins and dental gold have been the largest payouts so far with today's high gold prices. Archie Davis commented, "Other top categories at the Roadshow would have to be silver crowns and other coins, pocket watches and my personal favourite, old toys." Davis told me a story about a visitor at a recent Roadshow in Newbury. "An elderly gentleman walked into the show and asked if we were interested in old toys. He explained that he had kept all of the toys from his childhood and that they were outside in his car. I walked outside, and to my surprise his car was full of the coolest old toys I had ever seen: big old metals trucks, pedal cars, train sets, cast iron toys, he had it all. At the end of that day, he ended up walking away with over £3,000 for his old toys. His last comment to me was, 'Well, I guess it's time to let 'em go.'"

Whether you have 2 lbs. of gold or a single gold tooth, a car full of old toys or a single Barbie doll, you should visit the Roadshow this week. It's free, it's fun and it could put some money in your pocket, maybe a lot of money!

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

LDP was major factor behind disappointing election results

THERE'S no denying that it was a disappointing night last Thursday at the count for the local council elections.

Since that time, it has been pleasing to hear that the Prime Minister understands the concerns, frustration and expectations of people here in the Vale and across the country.

Local Conservative councillors worked really hard over the last four years. In spite of gaining credit from auditors and a range of independent inspectors across health, social services and education, the wider political picture meant that they paid a very high price.

There was a complex political picture here in the Vale. A Conservative/Lib Dem coalition at UK level; a Labour-run Assembly and a Conservative-run council. Working out who is responsible for what is not as straightforward as it may appear.

Without question, the Local Development Plan (LDP) was a priority issue on the doorstep. The plan is demanded by the Assembly and directed the Vale Council to find space for 10,000 new houses.

As a result, the local council took the blame for something they didn't want to do in the first place. The approach in England, dictated by UK Government is very different, where imposing new building on any community cannot take place in such a way.

Vale Conservative MP **Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

It will be interesting to see how the new council will approach this issue. Some parties talked about scrapping the LDP but in reality, this is not an option, according to the Welsh Government.

People were also frustrated about the lack of money available for local projects – new schools, roads, parks etc.

Again, the local authority were hamstrung by the funding (or lack of it) provided by the Welsh Government.

The Vale receives one of the poorest funding settlements of all local authorities across Wales. We receive £77 less per person than Cardiff and £188 less per head than Bridgend.

This is something that has to be addressed. Why do we have to pay more and receive less than other parts of Wales?

Confused message

The confused message from Westminster also didn't help.

Five months ago, David Cameron was at his highest level of popularity since becoming Prime Minister. This was at the time when he vetoed the EU treaty.

What's happened since? The Liberal Democrat partners were uncomfortable with this standpoint and, as a result, he had to row back somewhat. This caused confusion amongst the electorate.

He should have stuck to his original position and pleased the country in standing up to Europe, rather than one sixth of the coalition.

All governments need to focus on what really matters; the economy, health, education and skills, immigration and Europe. They need to work in support of each other to help overcome the national debt and the need for job creation.

I will do all I can to support the Vale Council, whoever runs it, to gain a fair funding settlement, and hope that they will respond to the need for further efficiency gains and cost cutting to help reduce the impact of the national debt.

Vale Flying Vet is jailed for breach of restraining order

VALE Flying Vet Maurice Kirk has been jailed for nine months at Cardiff Crown Court and ordered to pay £1,000 costs

By a unanimous verdict, Mr Kirk, 66, formerly of St Donats, and currently domiciled in Brittany, was found guilty of breaching a restraining order by placing prohibited material on the internet.

Prosecutor Gareth Evans said that last December at Cardiff Magistrates Court, Mr Kirk was convicted of harassing forensic psychiatrist Tegwyn Williams.

District Judge John Charles made a restraining order prohibiting Mr Kirk from contacting Dr Williams, and from disseminating any material relating to him.

He was also banned from placing any information concerning Dr Williams on the internet, and was banned from going to Dr Williams' workplace at the Caswell Clinic, Bridgend.

Mr Evans said Mr Kirk declined to be present when the order was made. He was personally provided with the order in the cells.

But, said Mr Evans, despite the order, he put material concerning Dr Williams on the website.

"It was a blatant contravention," said Mr Evans.

Mr Kirk was arrested in London and interviewed by the police in Cardiff on December 23, when he claimed he was not given a copy of the order.

He told officers: "I knew nothing whatsoever about the order until today."

At the end of the prosecution case when Kirk was invited to give evidence, he lowered his trousers in the dock and Judge John Curran ordered him to be taken to the cells.

A member of the public, a friend of Mr Kirk's, who had been advising him during the case, said that because of his conduct, he was withdrawing his services.

Mr Kirk refused to return to court, saying: "I want my brief and a doctor."

Judge Curran then drafted a document which was read to Mr Kirk by a member of the security staff, saying he could give evidence in his defence, call any witnesses he wished, and he could also address the jury.

The judge said that if Mr Kirk continued to refuse to come to court, the case would continue in his absence.

"I'm not having the trial process thwarted by Mr Kirk's behaviour," said Judge Curran.

Later, Mr Kirk sent a note to the judge saying he was not in a position to give evidence and wanted Dr Williams called as a witness.

AJ SICLUNA

Vale's inspiring Olympic Torchbearers get together

Julie Crayford, Kay Richmond, Karen O Donahue-Harris, Lara Cowpe, Bev Hopkins, Nicholas Cushen, James French and Alun Cairns MP.

FIFTEEN inspirational Vale residents chosen as London 2012 Olympic Flame Torchbearers, have been congratulated by the local MP.

Alun Cairns had asked to meet them at a get-together in advance of their big day.

It was also an opportunity for the select group to meet and get to know their fellow runners from Dinas Powys, Barry, Rhoose and Llantwit Major.

The MP explained: "I was keen to wish all the Vale Olympic Flame Torchbearers well in person.

"I wanted to add my personal congratulations on being nominated for such a special task, as they take it in turns to carry the flame through the Vale on May 26.

"Meeting them was inspirational. Each nominee had their own story to tell of how they've helped others, and overcome personal difficulties with determination and perseverance.

"Others had succeeded at international level in their chosen sport, and many had contributed hugely to their local communities through commitment to charity fundraising activities."

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THIS LATEST SLICE OF PIE FEELS A LITTLE BIT STALE!

Reunited, and it feels so good... so sang Peaches and Herb, but as anyone who has attended a school reunion will attest, realising that that horrible, ignorant school pupil who was in your class is now rich and successful, feels anything but good.

The subject of reunions crops up in *American Reunion*, which sees the cast of the *American Pie* franchise hook back up again, 13 years after our first slice.

This time around, the the guys and gals (among them Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan, Seann William Scott, and Eddie Kay Thomas) meet up again to see how their lives have changed from their teenage years, where hilarity will, no doubt, ensue...

When *American Pie* hit cinemas in 1999, it went beyond mere extreme comedy, the mix of heart and characters that were likeable and relatable making it a *Porky's* for the pre-millennial generation. While the two sequels slightly blunted the success of the first, *American Reunion's* promise of seeing the old gang back together again was a more than appealing prospect.

In actuality, the film certainly raises laughs-a-plenty, but as fond as it is to see where the characters have ended up more than a decade later, it can't escape a feeling of being somewhat contrived and reliant on jokes harking back to the original rather than creating its own identity.

What the film does best is in amping up just how much teenage life has changed so much in the intervening periods – the parties wilder, the behaviour less restrained – with the gang looking on; the sense of time passing is felt acutely, teenage concerns of proms and underage drinking giving way to marriage and job crises.

However, aside from a subplot which sees the boys anger a group of teens, the comedy tends to rely more on setpieces from yesteryear – so Jim has an embarassing mishap in the kitchen, the "This one time at band camp..." line is trotted out again, and the boys find themselves unwittingly caught up in events that spiral out of control.

With *Harold and Kumar*... directors Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossburg on duty here, there is no shortage of gross-out comedy moments on show, but while the pair show a more restrained eye than with their two most famous characters, there is nothing here to really get you excited, nothing that really sticks out in the memory, the film almost a victim of past successes.

The cast (some of whom it's fair to say were probably looking forward to a payday) all reprise their roles with ease, their turns fitting the characters and material like a glove; but the plaudits really go to Seann William Scott and Eugene Levy.

Stifler is a character that lives long in the memory and here, William Scott's foul mouthed hilarious turn really propels the film.

While those around him have grown up, Stifler is still trying to party like it's 1999, and his moments are by the far the funniest in the film, run close by Levy (arguably the breakout of the first film) who, as Jim's widowed dad, enjoys a meeting with Stifler's mum that raises laughs and touches hearts.

With nostalgia such a big selling point, it isn't surprising that we have been brought another slice of Pie; after all, to my generation, the original was as important as *The Inbetweeners* is to this one.

But too much looking back and not enough looking forward is a dangerous thing, and that is what does for *American Reunion* ultimately – it is a film that puts too much emphasis on the past, and as nice as it is to catch up with Jim and the rest of them, there isn't much fresh mileage.

VERDICT: Not quite the comeback hoped for, *American Reunion* manages to raise laughs, but its reliance on rehashing old jokes and situations feels nice, but offers nothing new.

The performances are likeable enough and the film makes for easy viewing, but fans of the franchise will feel this latest slice of Pie is a little stale. ***Average.***

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *American Pie* (1999), *Porky's* (1982), *The Inbetweeners Movie* (2011).

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

AUCTION

A GLAMORGAN Hunt auction will take place at Wern Wen Farm, Trebettyn, on Friday May 11. Viewing from 4pm and and auction 7pm. Many equestrian and other items including old prints, toys, clothing and promises.

IOLO WALK

THE Iolo Morgannwg Community Walk – Cowbridge to St Hilary, takes place on Saturday May 12, part of the Valeways Walking Festival programme.

Start at 10am at the Old Hall Gardens by the pond. Return around 3.30pm.

Students shine in show

STAGECOACH students from Bridgend and the Vale recently performed at St David's Hall, Cardiff. 'An Evening of Movies and Musicals', produced by Matthew Hampson of M&M Productions was in aid of Breast Cancer Care Cymru, and featured an exceptional line-up of stars from the world of musical theatre, opera and comedy.

The 50 Stagecoach children were thrilled to sing with an 80 piece orchestra, as part of a 300-strong choir, and help to support such an important charity.

The evening featured well-known performers including Shân Cothi, Wynne Evans (star of 'Go Compare' ad), James Fox (*Fame Academy*, *Chess The Musical*), Keith Jack (BBC's *Any Dream Will Do*) and Mike Doyle.

One of the stars of the night, Keith Jack, currently touring as the lead in the musical *Joseph*, has now invited Stagecoach children to perform with him in July when his own show *Up Close and Personal* tours venues in Wales.

For more information about Stagecoach Theatre Arts, contact Helene and Rob Reynolds on 01446 781454 or visit www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend.

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Out and About with The GEM

Tea party at top of world!

MARIE Curie Cancer Care is asking local people to hold a Blooming Great Tea Party this June and July to help raise funds for the charity.

It can be as simple as a cuppa with colleagues, a vintage inspired tea party or even a party to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

Mountaineer Richard Parks, pictured at the summit of Aconcagua recently showing his support for the Blooming Great Tea Party, proves that is doesn't matter where you are you can pop the kettle on.

Call 08700 340 040 for more information.

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Indulge your craft favourites at Cardiff City football stadium

A BRAND new craft and hobby show is coming to Cardiff City Stadium on May 25-26, where the Welsh craft community can indulge their hobbies with national favourites such as Stamp Addicts, Stampasaurus and Mulberry Silks, as well as promoting local businesses like Nantiago, 'The Bead Room @Boxes n Busts' and The Beads Nest, and many more.

There will also be a wide range of talented Welsh crafts people showcasing their handcrafted goodies and products for those who would just like to come and shop!

From beautiful handmade leather items to cupcakes and jewellery, there are some fabulous items all locally made.

Entrance is just £3, which includes a free cup of tea or coffee, and there will be goody bags for the first 50 visitors, so please join us for a great day out.

Opening times are 9.30am-5pm on Friday and 9am-5.30pm on Saturday.

We are always offering a range of great workshops from beginners to advanced if you fancy trying your hand at something new.

Please call Sara on 02920643690 or email: saralouise.kearsmith@compassgroup.co.uk for further details.

Hard of Hearing Club

MONTHLY meetings of the Penarth Hard of Hearing Club are held at Trinity Methodist Church, Woodlands Place, Penarth, on the first Monday of every month (second Monday if there is a Bank Holiday) at 2pm.

Tea available and regular guest speakers present.

Coffee morning

ALL Saint's Church, Park Road, Barry, will be holding its annual coffee morning on Saturday, May 12 at 10.30am-12 noon.

There will be the usual cake stall, bric-a-brac, tombola and two raffles.

Admission 50p, including a drink.

All proceeds go to church funds. Everyone is welcome.

Live music

THERE'S live soul music at Gordon Bennett on Saturday May 12 where Nation Stack will be performing from 9pm. Entry is free.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, May 13 at 2pm, the Welsh walking club will meet for the 'Scenic Sigingstone' walk at the roadside opposite the Victoria Inn, Sigingstone, Llantwit Major, CF71 7LP.

On Thursday, May 24 at 10.30am, 'Into the Rising Sun,' meeting at Llantwit Major beach car park.

Unusual plants fair

AN unusual plants fair, including specialist nurseries from across Wales and the borders, is being hosted by Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, Penarth, on Sunday May 13, 10am-6pm.

Free entry to both the fair and Cosmeston Lakes Country Park. Parking also free. For further information contact: 01446 774036.

Diabetes meeting

DIABETES UK's Vale of Glamorgan Voluntary Group will be meeting on May 15 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, at 7.30pm, when the speaker is Mrs Ellan Blanks, volunteer development officer of Diabetes UK Cymru, Cardiff.

New members are always welcome. Telephone 01446 746639 for more information.

Penarth exhibition

THE Penarth Hard of Hearing Club is holding an exhibition on Wednesday May 16 in the foyer of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Ynysmaerdy, Llantrisant, from 10am-3pm.

Live music

LIVE soul music from The Don at the Gordon Bennett on Saturday May 19 from 9pm. Entry is free.

Praise in the Park

ST PETER'S CHURCH, Church Road, Rhoose, is celebrating its centenary this year.

On May 27 we are holding a community event – Praise in the Park.

The event will be held in Milburn Park, Fontygary Road from 3pm-5pm and will be led by the Royal Air Force St Athan Voluntary Band, children from Rhoose Primary School and St Peter's Worship Team.

The event promises to offer something for all ages – with lots of audience participation!

If wet weather – the event will be held in Community Hall, Stuart Road, Rhoose.

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Llandaff Gardens, Cardiff

Combined admission £3, Saturday May 12, 11am-4pm.

SET in a beautiful location along the River Taff and a short distance from the picturesque Llandaff Cathedral, the owners are enthusiastic gardeners who have many years of experience in horticulture and are more than happy to share it.

Gaynor's Garden is a sheltered sloping garden full of spring bulbs and cottage garden plants. An arbour, octagonal greenhouse and small pond complete the scene.

Under a pergola covered in a mature grapevine and clematis, a deck path leads to a quiet area at the top of the garden.

Rosemary's Garden – walk through a small woodland garden with specimen hydrangea and rhododendron, spring bulbs, stunningly white silver birch.

Raised herb bed beside a decked path leading to seasonal containers and a pergola covered in wedding day climbing rose.

Follow a newly installed stream around a well-stocked, raised planting area.

One of the Barry gardens.

Barry Gardens, Barry

47 Aneurin Road, 11 Arno Road, Cae Gwyn, 1 North Walk, 104 Pontypridd Road. Sunday May 13, admission £5, 12pm-5pm.

THERE are five lovely gardens situated in picturesque surroundings.

Among the selection is a small plant lover's garden with ponds, rock gardens, alpine sinks and winter flowering shrubs, snowdrops and hellebores.

There is also 'Pets Corner' – a lovely arrangement of plants named after animals in this ever-changing garden with more than 600 containers.

A third location has a more formal front garden with herbaceous perennials, and a cottage-style rear garden including wildlife pond and quirky touches throughout.

Pontypridd Road hosts a garden with delightful hidden areas.

Cae Gwyn is a large secret garden. Please note: not all the gardens are within walking distance.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

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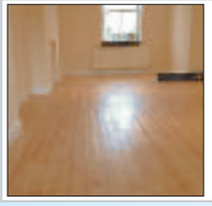

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Visit a local garden

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

Cyncoed and Llanishen Gardens

Admission £4, open Sunday, May 13, 2pm-6pm.

THIS interesting group has expanded from two to four gardens this year.

Three of the suburban gardens were carved out of woodland in the 1930s when the houses were built and they are surrounded by trees.

The fourth house was originally a Victorian cottage.

These gardens have a multitude of shrubs, climbing roses, clematis, hostas, succulents and ferns and many unusual plants.

The owners include sculptures and features in their gardens and spend time on landscaping.

Two of the gardens have been maintained by the same family owners for nearly half a century.

Tony Riddler's Garden

Admission £3, Sunday, May 13, 2pm-5pm.

GRAPHIC designer's 1/3acre garden behind a modest terrace house.

The garden is divided into a series of formal spaces and vistas largely defined by narrow stepped pathways, sculptures, yew hedges and box topiary. Regret, no children.

Featured in 'Discovering Welsh Gardens' by Stephen Anderton.

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Barry Rugby Football Club – **The Reservoir Field, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry** – To extend to eastern side of existing clubhouse new lounge and toilet facilities; to extend viewing area and front entrance porch, to include internal alterations.

Mr Rhydian Lloyd – **Ysgol Cymraeg, Gwaun y Nant, Amroth Court, Barry** – Proposed single storey extension.

Mrs A Richards – **7 Beach Road, Penarth** – Cut down fir tree in front garden.

Miss Rozanne Lord – **Hen Felin, Duffryn** – Removal of three short sections of hedgerow.

Mr Andrew Thomas – **Burton Cottage, East Aberthaw** – Proposed indoor swimming pool and associated structure, to replace existing outdoor (open air) swimming pool.

Mr Hugh Thomas – **Rock Cottage, Fonmon** – Extend existing garden room and utility room and combine with existing conservatory making one large garden room at ground floor level. Also construct one additional bedroom at first floor level.

Mrs Lynda Williams – **Moorlands Farm, Wick Road, Llantwit Major** – Change of use of agricultural building to 2 no. dwellings at land and buildings at Moorlands Farm, Wick Road, Llantwit Major.

Mr John Williams – **Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea** – Demolition of former hotel and construction of nine apartments including car parking and landscaping.

Asbri Planning Limited – **Lake Farm Barns, St Athan Road, Cowbridge** – Use of the former outbuilding as a residential annex ancillary to the main dwelling.

Mr Anthony Kerslake – **Brook Farm, Llanmaes** – Re-design of previously approved 4-bed detached dwellings with double garages, under planning application 2006/00599/FUL at Brook Farm, Llanmaes, Plots 1 and 2.

Gundersen Enterprises Limited – **The Mill, Chapel Farm, Port Road, Rhoose** – Waste recovery and recycling process or processes in respect of motor vehicles, refrigerators, computers and allied items.

Mr Howard Metcalfe – **RNLI Barry Dock Station (disuse), Pierhead, Docks, Barry** – Works to provide pedestrian access on slipway.

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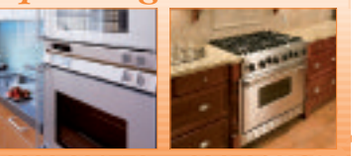

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Environment Agency Wales is reminding people in Wales to register their septic tanks or small package treatment plants as soon as possible.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr Derrick Ross – **56 Brook Street, Barry** – To retain extension to rear of existing end of terrace dwelling and convert to three one bedroom units. Convert existing coachouse into refuse/recycling store, bicycle and general storage for the units with the rear garden used for clothes drying and amenity space (clothes drying can also be provided to each house).

Farmhouse Developments Ltd – **The Cottage, The Red Lion Inn, Pendoylan** – Demolition and construction of a dilapidated single storey cottage to form a two storey living accommodation and change of use from C1 to C3.

Mr Roger Bassett – **Highmead, Pen y Lan, Newton, Cowbridge** – Extension to north of lounge area and undercroft; Alterations to kitchen, utility room, east win; Alterations to bedrooms, south wing; New raised roof area to incorporate bedroom/bathroom/study; Replace existing concrete roof tiles with roof slate.

Miss Allison Sing – **73 Cae Canol, Caversham Park, Penarth** – Small extension to the rear of the property.

Mr Simon Leyshon – **44 Greenfield Avenue, Dinas Powys** – Single storey extension to side of existing property, to incorporate a utility room.

Mr Adrian George – **78 Lavernock Road, Penarth** – Two storey side extension.

Mr Trevor Taylor – **Land at Hill Farm, Hensol** – Application for the erection of an agricultural building and associated farm track and entrance improvements.

Mrs Victoria Williams – **Old Factory House, Factory Road, Llanblethian** – Refurbishment and extension of single residential dwelling house and integral garage.

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"Vale Orangeries has completed numerous orangery builds throughout south Wales, with many showhomes available for private viewings.

"We have a wide range of styles available to view at our client's homes. This is a unique opportunity to talk to our customers about their experience and see for yourselves the quality of our work."

Dean explains: "Having a living space built to your specification is a dream for many, and a reality for our clients. We ensure the whole experience is enjoyable and stress-free. There is no need to concern yourself with architects, planning or building control as this is all part of the package.

"The only planning we want you to worry about is where to put your sofa – but we can even help with that too!"

If you are thinking of an extension or conservatory, but want something different, call Dean or Leanne on 01446 746353 to discuss how a Vale Orangeries orangery can work for the way you live.

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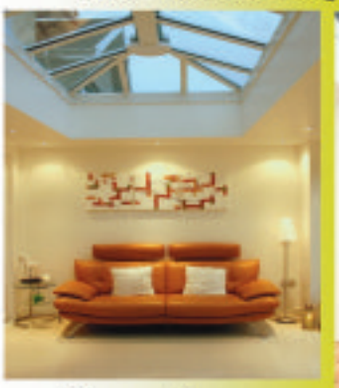

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VALE ORANGERIES

Going that extra length... to raise much-needed money for the Llandough Breast Centre

by LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

A CHARITY walk to raise money for the Breast Centre at Llandough Hospital is being arranged for May 27 at Cottrell Park Golf Club, where children will be able to go along and learn about exotic animals in a 'Walk on the Wild Side'.

Lengths for Life is a fundraising group set up by staff at the centre, along with passionate fundraisers, that ensures the people of the Vale have the best treatment possible if they are diagnosed with the disease.

It is one of their core fundraising events of 2012, and they hope that as many people as possible will turn up to support the work of the centre's staff.

Justina Simpson is one of the founding members of Lengths for Life, and she spoke to The GEM about the charity.

She said: "Lengths for Life is a major fundraising drive which is in its second year. It is absolutely crucial for the treatment and service of cancer patients at Llandough Hospital Breast Centre.

"There is so much we need to buy for the care and comfort of the patients. We also want to push the people on the front lines in to the media eye, the nurses and the patients."

'Walk on the Wild Side' is a great opportunity to boost their funds, and it is set to be a fun day out for all, as Ms Simpson explained: "We want to educate children and give them a fun day out. We've got lots of wild animals like geckos and pythons along the route for them to say hello to."

Sarah Edwards is an employee at the golf club, and also works at the Breast Centre in Llandough. She added that the walk would provide a fun day out for families.

She told The GEM: "As part of the fundraising group, and as a mum of two, I suggested the Breast Centre organise an event that would be hugely fun for the whole family, but also really educational.

"Children and parents will be wowed by the breathtaking scenery, but what's even more special is the wild and wonderful creatures they will encounter on their walk.

"From geckos and lizards to snakes and meerkats, this really *is* a walk on the wild side."

Golf club member Louise Case knows more than most how vital the care the Breast Centre provides is. She told The GEM about her struggle fighting the disease.

She said: "As a fairly fit and healthy golfer, I was shocked to discover a lump in my breast.

"Initially, I had several appointments over several weeks at the University Hospital outpatients department for a mammogram, biopsy and scanning before the diagnosis was finally confirmed. It was breast cancer, my worst fear!

"Once the diagnosis was formally confirmed, I attended Llandough Hospital for a scan. Mr Moneypenny, a breast consultant, intended to remove the sentinel lymph glands as a slightly less invasive procedure than removing them all completely.

"I then stepped onto the rollercoaster of two lots of surgery in October and November 2009 at Llandough Hospital, then followed 18 months of chemotherapy and Herceptin at Velindre Hospital.

"The opening of the new dedicated unit at Llandough is without doubt a step in the right direction, and avoids the inconsistency of going between two hospitals. The new unit is a one-stop shop, which negates the need for appointments over several weeks for mammograms, scans etc.

"Having these procedures in one day avoids weeks of anguish and worry.

"Although the diagnosis of breast cancer is a devastating blow, I believe that the more personal touch of a dedicated unit helps. For me it was comforting to be able to walk through those doors and to know that everyone else there at least understood in some way how I was feeling."

She also backed the event, adding: "After talking with Sarah Edwards, we agreed that Cottrell Park nature trail would be a most excellent venue to host the 'Lengths for Life' fundraising walk.

"To that end, I would ask anyone young or old to please come and give your support and walk the full 4km, or just as much as you can manage, in aid of the breast unit.

"Although the unit is up and running, more money is needed for equipment and to assist with opening a dedicated teaching facility."

Anyone can raise money for Lengths for Life through any means available, and the charity will be there to support you.

"We set people their own challenge, whether they want to walk, run or have a charity rugby match," Ms Simpson added. "We then help them with sponsor packs that include things like posters and sponsorship forms.

"We appreciate there is a tough economic climate currently and that is why we appreciate everything you can raise. We don't expect you to raise a fortune! Even if it is just £10 or £20.

"Our core message is 'what lengths would you go to to help people in The Vale with breast cancer?' We want everyone to go extra lengths to raise money."

Another major factor of the charity is that those involved with the day-to-day treatment of cancer patients at the Breast Centre are also involved in the fundraising efforts.

"We've only got a small team, but everyone is hands on," continued Ms Simpson. "The doctors and surgeons are at these events collecting and the nurses do the same.

"That's why I'm so passionate. These people are there when you find out you are ill and despite being so busy they give up their spare time to collect.

"Mr Sumit Goyal is the lead clinician at Llandough. The Breast Centre is his baby. He shouldn't have to do this but he does. He deserves so much credit!"

She concluded by stressing the importance of raising money for the local care centre, where anyone in the Vale who falls ill would receive treatment.

"People often fundraise for the big household names, but what they don't realise is the money doesn't stay in Wales," she added.

"That's what we need to hammer home. If their relatives fall ill, they will get all their treatment at Llandough, so we want the money to stay in the Vale and go to helping local people.

"If all the people who ran for the big charities ran for us, we'd be one of the top centres in the UK."

If you want to take part in the 'Walk on the Wild Side', register at: www.lengthsforlife.co, or call Sarah on 07790 319 001.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre
(Telephone: 01656 725219)

Can you give Samuel a new home?

SAMUEL is a 10-year-old Spaniel. He is a very sweet older dog who is still active and enjoys his walks.

The centre reports:

He gets on well with other dogs, and would love to live with another dog in a quieter home, to show him the ropes.

He suffers from arthritis in his front legs and is on medication to help with this. He is housetrained and fine to be left for a few hours.

If you are interested in offering Samuel, or any of our other dogs a home, call us on 01656 725219, or pop in to Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

We are open 12 noon-4pm, Tuesday-Sunday, and are now open late until 8pm on Wednesdays.

Samuel is looking for a new home.

TIARAS AND PYJAMAS...

Fundraisers warm up for the walk.

Sleep Walk is a huge success!

LADIES who took part in the 'Tiaras and Pyjamas'-themed Ty Hafan midnight sleep walk on Friday May 4 at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, were thrilled to have a guest appearance from Torchwood star John Barrowman.

After a week of heavy rain and showers the weather was kind to the 800 participants, who began to register from as early as 9.30pm.

Another guest had an uncanny resemblance to Captain Jack Sparrow (aka Johnny Depp). He had the ladies guessing whether Ty Hafan had managed to enlist the support from two celebrities.

Music and continuity was provided by Barry-based Bro Radio, and the girls from Curves led the warm-up routine designed to get those legs stretched ready for the walk, which gave participants the opportunity to show their support for the mums and dads of life-limited children, who rarely experience an uninterrupted night's sleep.

"It was really kind of John to show his support for Ty Hafan in this way," said event organiser Craig Ananin. "Without a doubt, his involvement encouraged the ladies to register for the event and, in fact, we had to close it at 800 over a week ago so apologies to anyone we had to turn away.

ABOVE: Torchwood star John Barrowman was on hand to support the sleep walking ladies!

"With an ever-increasing number of children and families being referred to Ty Hafan's services it is so important that our events are supported and I would like to thank all the ladies and the volunteer marshals for helping to make the night a great success."

More photographs will be available for viewing at: www.tyhafan.org.

An audience with Yazz

1980s pop star Yazz is coming to Cowbridge.

IN the summer of 1988, singer Yazz (born Yasmin Evans) released her debut single, 'The Only Way Is Up'.

It went on to become the biggest-selling UK single of the year, following five weeks at the top of the charts.

Today, Yazz is a successful contemporary Christian recording artist.

She lives in Spain, but occasionally returns to the UK to tour and promote her albums and is now coming to Cowbridge!

An Audience With Yazz, called 'Fame2Freedom', will be held on Friday, May 18 at 7pm in Holy Cross Parish Church, Cowbridge.

The evening will have a personal atmosphere with an intimate, interview-style backdrop, interspersed with live singing and contemporary visuals.

Yazz shares the story of her life journey to Christian faith with honesty and tenderness.

Following the performance, the audience is invited to stay on for refreshments and an opportunity to talk to Yazz in person.

Already, tickets have been sold as far afield as Bristol, so it looks set to be an evening to remember.

Tickets cost £3 and are available from: Sorrento, 67 High Street, Cowbridge; Noah's Place, 21 Westgate, Cowbridge; and the Holy Cross Parish Office, Church Street, Cowbridge.

For further enquiries please phone the Parish Office on 01446 772302.

This event has been organised by Cowbridge and District Churches Together.

Kate Hibbert

WHAT'S ON: *in brief*

Llanmaes plant sale

ON Sunday, May 13, between 11am and 3pm, Llanmaes Social Committee will be holding their annual plant sale in the grounds of Llanmaes Village Hall, offering a variety of bedding plants, hanging baskets, annuals and perennials for sale.

All plants are either grown by local 'celebrity' gardener, Bill Lee, or donated by village residents.

Woodland wildplay

ON May 19, there will be a day of adventure and magic, skills and story at Coed Hills Rural Artspace.

Young people over six years are invited to follow the trail into the woods and discover secrets of the forest, amongst the trees, plants and the animals. See www.coedhills.co.uk for more information.

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ADULT LEARNERS WEEK

'Adult Learning' means maximising your potential

ADULT learning is not just about going back to school – it provides a fantastic opportunity to maximise potential, boosting earnings, teaching new skills for a new job, or just adding to existing qualifications.

The Further Education (FE) sector offers specific courses designed for adults to ease you back into education or progress people on to university, such as 'Return to Learn' and 'Access' courses.

There is also a range of courses accredited by universities, so you can get a higher education qualification and even a degree at college.

College staff are industry experts and experienced in the subjects that they teach.

Colleges such as Cardiff and Vale College also offer courses at sites from the heart of Barry to Cardiff city centre and at adult and community learning centres across the region – whichever is closest to your work or home.

Online learning programmes and flexible study schemes ensure that the FE sector can meet your training needs.

A range of financial support is available for over 19s to cover the cost of a course, or even assist with extra costs such as books or kit, childcare or travel.

Learning support is also available to those who might have dyslexia or need more help with English and Maths.

There are also programmes to help those who are unemployed gain skills and knowledge to get back in to work, such as the Skillbuild scheme.

Working with Careers Wales, the ReAct programme can help people who have been made redundant.

Cardiff and Vale College is one of the newest and most exciting colleges in south Wales.

It offers the widest range of courses across Cardiff and the Vale, including a huge range of professional industry courses – and it's on your doorstep!

For more information on the wide range of courses CAVC has to offer call 030 30 30 10 10 or email info@cavc.ac.uk.

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TUITION
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Tracy's decision is inspirational!

TRACY'S story is one of true inspiration and demonstrates how learning new skills really can change your life!

Tracy came to Pitman Training with the dream of being a medical secretary. After chatting to Leanne, one of the Pitman Training's friendly advisors, she felt more confident about making the career change and started learning the skills need to become a medical secretary.

Tracy really enjoyed the flexible training, and found it easy to fit it around family and work commitments. Tracy successfully achieved her Pitman Training Medical Secretarial Diploma and immediately gained a new role as a medical receptionist at Spire Cardiff Hospital.

Her career has continued to progress and she is now a well-respected medical secretary. Recently, the national magazine Women's Own approached Tracy as they wanted to feature her success story in their magazine. Well done, Tracy, you are a real inspiration!

Tracy said: "Thanks again for everything, believing in me and making me believe in myself!"

For further information, please contact Melanie, Katie or Leanne at Pitman Training Cardiff on 02920 342020 or cardiff@pitman-training.net.

VOLUNTEERING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!

SUPPORTED by the Big Lottery Fund, the Vale Volunteer Bureau is launching a new project to give young people aged 16-24 extra support to jump start their volunteering.

Holly Williams, who runs the project, will help new volunteers with application forms and support them on a one-to-one basis during initial stages.

She hopes "it will help young people to get involved with positive volunteering they would otherwise miss out on."

Volunteers will be able to find out about the 800 plus volunteer roles in and around the Vale and also gain the free Agored Cymru qualification.

For more information on getting involved, or any aspect of volunteering in the Vale, contact Holly Williams, Youth Volunteering Officer on 01446 421782 or holly@vvb.org.uk or pop into the VVB at 34 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HD.

ARE YOU 14-25??
Dish out Dosh
The Vale Volunteer Bureau is looking for volunteers , to work as part of a team. The team will be responsible for Dishing Out Dosh to other youth led projects in the Vale of Glamorgan.
For more information contact Holly on 01446 421782, holly@vvb.org.uk , 34 Holton Road. Barry. CF63 4HD
GwirVol
VVB Vale Volunteer Bureau Canolfan Gwirfoddol Y Fro

Volunteer in the Vale!
Aged 16-25?
Currently not in education or employment?
Want to improve your skills, get experience, meet new people and enhance your CV?
We have hundreds of volunteering opportunities available to suit your interests – including volunteering in sports, childcare, outdoor projects, fundraising, and much more.
Call in to the Vale Volunteer Bureau at 34 Holton Road, Barry or contact Holly on 01446 421782 or holly@vvb.org.uk
VVB Vale Volunteer Bureau Canolfan Gwirfoddol Y Fro
LOTTERY FUNDED

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First Minister welcomes Japanese ambassador

FIRST Minister Carwyn Jones welcomed the Japanese Ambassador to the UK to Wales for talks on the relationship between the two countries.

His Excellency Keiichi Hayashi is in Cardiff as part of a two-day visit to Wales.

The First Minister said: "It is a pleasure to welcome the ambassador to Wales as the Welsh Government values greatly the longstanding and deep rooted business and cultural links between Wales and Japan."

The Welsh Government will be leading a trade mission to Japan this coming November.

Wales is home to 50 Japanese-owned companies employing around 8,000 people.

The Welsh Government also has an office in Tokyo that helps Welsh companies looking to enter the Japanese market or expand their existing business.

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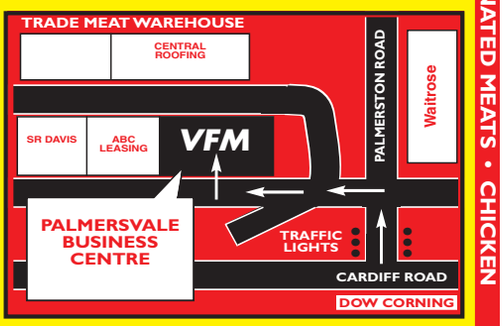

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Scouts transform school hall into Grand Prix!

ON Sunday, April 29, St Richard Gwyn High School sports hall was transformed into a racing track for one day only to host the Vale Scout District Go-kart Grand Prix.

Scout Troops from St Athan, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge had for the last six weeks been busy building go-karts to the same basic specification. They were then given 'carte blanche' to add the finishing touches; go faster stripes and, in the case of St Athan, who were supported by B & Q, a dragster with flames!

Approximately 60 uniformed Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, together with leaders, and supported by parents and other family members, attended the exciting event which was preceded by a promise renewal ceremony.

Everyone involved in Scouting renewed their promise in front of Simon Miskin, the District Commissioner for the Vale.

Once the formalities were over, the teams headed for their pits to put on safety gear and prepare for the races.

The first race was the 'Le Mans' medley, which gave each section a 10-minute time slot to do as many laps as possible.

The Beavers manoeuvred the go-karts bravely around the track, the Cubs were a little more confident, charging around cheekily, and the Scouts sped their way around the track shouting and screaming their heads off!

Immediately after the 'Le Mans' medley was the 'Grand Prix', which was the best three pushers and drivers from each section racing against the other groups.

This time it was first over the winning line. Tension mounted as each section steadied their nerves trying to steer around the track without colliding with the safety bollards or any other karts.

After a well-earned refreshment break of tea, coffee, squash, home-made cakes and crisps, the 'Grand Prix' was followed by relay races for all sections as well as a leaders' race and a parents' race.

All races received lots of cheering and shouting from the leaders and parents as well as the other children not racing at that time.

The roof was lifted off St Richard Gwyn High School for most of the afternoon, there was no shortage of competitiveness!

The races concluded and all that remained was the presentation ceremony. Trophies were awarded to the winning race teams and everyone received a certificate for taking part.

Simon Miskin, District Commissioner, said: "Today has been a fantastic event which has really brought together Scouts from all sections across the Vale District. The Scout Troops should be applauded for making the go-karts, without them this event would not have taken place.

"Everyone who took part today, both on and off the race track, is a winner, and should feel proud to be a part of Scouting in the Vale.

"Subject to the District Committee's agreement, and on the basis of such a successful and safe event, this was hoped to be an annual event."

There are Beaver Colonies (aged six-eight), Cub Packs (aged eight-10), and Scout Troops (aged 10-14) in St Athan, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge as well as an Explorer Unit for Scouts aged 14-18. There is also a new Beaver Colony starting in St Brides.

All these groups rely on the support of parents and adult volunteers to make successful events such as the 'Grand Prix' happen.

If you are interested in volunteering in any Section or Group across the Vale please contact 01446 754208.

Joanne Gower

The St Athan Scout winners savour Grand-Prix glory.

The Llantwit Major Beaver winners.

The St Athan Cub winners.

Vale Ramblers take to the coastal path

The VOG Ramblers marked the opening of the Wales Coastal Path.

THE Wales Coastal Path was officially opened last week and to celebrate, the Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers led a walk along the coastal path.

The meeting place was the train station at Llantwit Major, and from there we made our way firstly over fields, then down a very muddy green lane.

Before too long, we joined the coastal path, made our way across a pebbly beach at Tresilian Bay, and from there we continued along to St Donats. We saw them launching the RNLI inflatable boat that is stationed there, but thankfully, it was not an emergency, just a routine patrol.

After coffee, we continued westwards towards Nash Point, where quite a few people were enjoying the sunshine, spending the day on the beach, and walking the cliffs. The group then made its way inland, through the nature reserve, and on to the village.

In the afternoon, we diverted along the public footpaths inland, as we made our way back to the starting point.

Gwenda Fitzpatrick

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw:

- **£2,000:** 588060.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £10,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 588060, 486418, 433146, 140850, 286503, 346913, 310220, 316758, 678987, 612188, 329726, 392636, 805425, 734013, 141089, 708119, 892510, 219671, 873067, 250746, 725622.
- **£5:** 741030, 858212, 599818, 654299, 687733, 677486, 418283, 103986, 837573, 410635, 518148, 703362, 250590, 198353, 871258, 772296, 991332, 799828, 449169, 327907, 422297, 415130, 434749, 928752, 530385, 213217, 897379, 217436, 699925, 251641, 577210, 952933, 132539, 443949, 484580, 334000, 806112, 942164, 540950, 773065, 860096, 619964, 465906, 958868, 865976, 648049, 386516, 664286, 190408, 837275, 427180, 463045, 586383, 258927, 342350, 712700, 671739, 754442, 973787, 950446, 681919.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call 02920 672062.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 16 May 2012

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

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Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARTHUR DAVIES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1089027
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- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden/gardens
- Communal entrance

Rent £93.89 per week including service charge

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- Three-bedroom house
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BRECON COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 202282
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60
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CAERLEON ROAD, DINAS POWYS

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CRESSWELL COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 206214
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £94.36 per week including water charges

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 208810
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family–no pets
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- Ground floor
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Communal gardens

Rent £77.24 pw including service and water charges

GEORGE STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 1088966
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £90.30 per week including service charge

GWYN JAMES COURT, BARRY

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- Double glazing
- Communal access
- Warden and gardens

Rent £103.45 pw inc. heating service and water charges

HARLECH GARDENS, BARRY

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Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Upstairs
- Double glazing
- Central heating

Rent £87.68 per week including service and water charges

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1089038
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
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- Parking

Rent £82.00 per week including service charge

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY

H4U Reference 958714
Suitable for a family
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £79.93 per week including service charge

PURCELL ROAD, PENARTH

H4U Reference 242579
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
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- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Communal gardens

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SOMERSET ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 224022
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
Not suitable for applicants with mobility needs
- One-bedroom bungalow
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- Central heating
- Community alarm

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ST LUKES AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 244864
Suitable for a single person couple orsmall family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- Upstairs
- Double glazing
- Central heating

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Suitable for a family
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TREBEFERAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 236336
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £96.61 per week including water charges

WALKER ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 227323
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
Not suitable for applicants with mobility needs. Priority given to under-occupiers.
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Community alarm

Rent £88.49 pw including alarm and water charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Brecon Court	15	Gold Plus	01/11/11
Cwm Parc	18	Silver Plus	06/03/12
Edward Street	43	Gold Plus	23/01/12
Lennox Green	18	Gold	15/6/10
Llandinam Road	69	Gold	04/08/11
Merion Close	81	Gold	27/6/11
Merthyr Dyfan Rd	79	Gold	01/08/11
North Walk	18	Silver Plus	22/2/12
Pendoylan Close	42	Gold	08/08/11
Peterswell Road	16	Silver	18/04/11
Pontalun Close	19	Silver Plus	14/02/12
Severn Avenue	19	Silver Plus	12/03/12
Tansing Terrace	93	Gold Plus	05/04/11
Beatrice Road	93	Gold	24/06/11
Thomas Court	36	Gold	25/01/12

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Early Viewing Recommended
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Chris Davies

Cambrian Avenue, Llantwit Major
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View to the Front Elevation
South Side Location
Call Simon 01446 791963
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Cardigan Crescent, Llantwit Major
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4 Bedrooms
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Clos Ogney, Llantwit Major - £550 pcm
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2 Bedrooms, Rear Garden, Popular Location

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'Wanted' continued next page

Family Notices

MORGAN
Susan Margaret

Suddenly on May 2 at Princes of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Sue of Cowbridge (nee Llewellyn of Barry), beloved wife of Keith, devoted mother of Sian, dear mother-in-law of Jason.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday May 15, service 10.45am at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 12 noon.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Parkinsons Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

The Hair Studio
Llantwit Major

Jacquie would like to thank all her clients and staff for their patience, understanding and kind words of support over this past year, during her mum's illness and recent passing.

It has been very much appreciated.

SNELL
Florence

14.12.1944 - 05.05.2012

It is with regret and deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Florence who will be greatly missed by all her family and friends around the world.

Husband Gerry, son Neil, daughter-in-law Leah, grand-daughter Scarlett, brothers Ralph, Norman and Chuckie, step-children Simon and Susan, their partners Sarah and Keith and step-grandchildren Alex, Chloe, William and Jennifer.

No flowers please, but should you wish to make a donation to the charity that Florence supported all her life, please make cheques payable to Dr Graham's Homes, c/o The Treasurer, 101 Caiyside, Edinburgh. EH10 7HR.

Please contact the family for funeral details on 01446 713196.

HARTLEY
Beryl

Peacefully, on May 1 at Holme Tower after a long illness borne with great fortitude and strength, Beryl aged 88 years (formerly of Cartref Pothceri) devoted wife of the late Peter, much loved and loving mother of Linda and Tracy, cherished and adored by all her family and her dearest friend Joyce.

Resting at A G Adams, Barry until the service at All Saints Church on Friday, May 18 at 11.30am, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only, but donations in memory of Beryl can be made to Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Tower, Penarth.

SULLIVAN
Catherine Minnie

Peacefully, on April 27 at Llandough Hospital, in her 92nd year, Kate of Rhoose. Beloved wife of the late Ron, dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday May 14, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

FREDERICK
Stan

The family of the late Stan Frederick would like to thank all who attended his Funeral Service and for all the well wishes and messages of condolences received, they have greatly helped us at this sad time.

'MUD' PHILLIPS

Our brave and beautiful daughter passed away peacefully at home on 6th May 2012 age 23.

She is loved and missed by her brothers, sisters, family, friends and carers - too many to list - but who have all been inspired by her love, humour, character and courage.

Thank you for being our girl.

Kate Stewart Phillips & Julian Phillips

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 43 ST ANDREWS MAJOR)
DIVERSION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on the 18th day of April 2012. The effect of the Order will be to divert the route of the public footpath from that described in the Schedule and shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the Order, may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 7th day of June 2012. You should clearly state the grounds on which the representation or objection is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, The Vale of Glamorgan Council may itself confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Welsh Assembly Government for confirmation, any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Dated this 10th day of May 2012

Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration
Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO. 39 ST ANDREWS MAJOR)
EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on the 18th day of April 2012. The effect of the Order will be to extinguish the route of the public footpath as described in the Schedule and shown on the Order map.

A copy of the Order and the Order map may be seen free of charge at the Dock Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT from 9.00am to 4.00pm on any weekday. Copies of the Order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representation about or objection to the Order, may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 7th day of June 2012. You should clearly state the grounds on which the representation or objection is made.

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Dated this 10th day of May 2012

Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration
Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT.

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ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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17

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18/19

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18/19

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18/19

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

YR EISTEDDFOD – BETH I DDISGWYL?

YMHEN pedwar mis fe fydd Bro Morgannwg yn croesawu un o wyliau celfyddydol mwyaf y byd sef yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Mae pawb wedi clywed am yr 'Eisteddfod', ond beth yn union a wyddom am Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru a beth fedrwn ei ddisgwyl pan fydd yr W^yl yn ymweld â'r ardal?

Mae Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru yn un o wyliau mawr y byd sy'n denu dros 150,000 o ymwelwyr yn flynyddol. Mae'r Eisteddfod yn w^yl deithiol sy'n eiddo i bobl ym mhob rhan o Gymru, ac mae hyn yn rhan fawr o'i hapêl.

Mae'n ymweld ag ardaloedd yng ngogledd a de Cymru bob yn ail, ac mae cynnal yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn hwb mawr i unrhyw ardal.

Mae'n gyfle gwych i bobl leol fod yn rhan o weithgareddau diwylliannol yn eu hardal ac mae hefyd yn gyfle gwych i godi proffil yr ardal fel mangre ar gyfer ymwelwyr.

Yn ychwanegol, mae'r effaith economaidd ar ardal yn enfawr, gyda'r Eisteddfod yn cyfrannu rhwng £6-8 milwn i'r economi leol yn ystod yr wythnos.

Mi fydd safle hen Faes Awyr Llandw yn cael ei drawsnewid yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod (Awst 4-11) yn bair celfyddydol gyda'r maes ei hun yn cymryd safle 35 erw a'r meysydd parcio a'r meysydd carafanau a gwersylla swyddogol wedi eu lleoli cyfagos.

Prif ffocws y maes yw'r Pafiliwn – sef pabell fawr binc, sydd yn eistedd 2,000, a lleolir yng nghanol y Maes.

Yn ystod y dydd dyma yw cartref pob math o gystadlaethau o gorau i berfformiadau offerynnol i'r prif seremoniau llenyddol ac yn ystod y nos fe fydd y pafiliwn yn cael ei drawsnewid yn neuadd gyngerdd gyda pherfformwyr o'r radd eithaf.

Ymhlith yr artistiaid eleni bydd Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Karl Jenkins, Dennis O'Neill, Rebecca Evans, Dafydd Iwan a Caryl Parry Jones.

Ychwanegwch Is Bafiliynau a dros 300 o stondinau yn cynnig gweithgareddau a perfformiadau llenyddol, gwyddoniaeth, dawns, theatr, arddangosfa celfyddydau gweledol, perfformiadau a gweithgareddau di-ri i'r plant a llwyfan perfformio yn cynnwys cerddoriaeth o bob math.

Mae'r Eisteddfod yn gymysgedd eclectig o ddiwylliant, cerddoriaeth, celfyddyd a phob math o weithgareddau ar gyfer pobl o bob oed, yn sicr bydd rhywbeth at ddant pawb ar y Maes.

Only Boys Aloud. yn Llwyddo Dros Brydain

COFIWCH ddefnyddio eich pleidlais nos Sadwrn yma i bleidleisio dros Only Boys Aloud yn rownd derfynol rhaglen *Britain's Got Talent*!

Mae'r côr o fechgyn 14-19 oed o'r Cymoedd, a grewyd yn arbennig ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod Blaenau Gwent a Blaenau'r Cymoedd, wedi bod yn llwyddiant ysgubol yn ystod y gyfres, a'r pedwar beirniad wedi mopio gyda'u perfformiadau yn y rownd gychwynnol ac yn y rownd gyn-derfynol dros y penwythnos.

Meddai Elfed Roberts, Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod, "Rwy'n sicr ein bod i gyd wedi mwynhau perfformiad gwefreiddiol Only Boys Aloud dros y penwythnos, a braf yw gweld bod nifer fawr o'u cefnogwyr wedi mynd ati i brynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngerdd agoriadol yn yr Eisteddfod eleni ers eu llwyddiant.

Rydym yn annog pawb i gefnogi'r bechgyn yn y rownd derfynol nos Sadwrn, a gobeithio y byddan nhw'n dod i'r brig yn y gystadleuaeth.

"Mae'r Eisteddfod yn hynod falch o'n cysylltiad ni gydag Only Boys Aloud, a'n bod ni wedi bod yn rhan o gychwyn y prosiect gan roi'u llwyfan cyntaf iddyn nhw ddwy flynedd yn ôl.

"Mae'r côr wedi mynd o nerth i nerth ers hynny, ac yn ddi-os, maen nhw'n rhan o waddol diwylliannol a chymunedol yr Eisteddfod yn y de ddwyrain. Pob llwyddiant iddyn nhw nos Sadwrn."

Mae Cymdeithas Adeiladu'r Principality yn cefnogi'r côr, ac meddai Pat Ashman, Rheolwr Nawdd a Digwyddiadau'r cwmni: "Mae'r Principality wedi cefnogi Only Boys Aloud ers y cychwyn a rydan ni falch iawn o lwyddiant y bechgyn yn cyrraedd y rownd derfynol yn Britain's

Got Talent.

"Mae hyn nid yn unig yn hwb iddyn nhw fel côr ond i Gymru gyfan, ac yn lwyfan bendigedig i ganu corawl yng Nghymru, sydd hefyd yn bwysig i ni fel cwmni.

"Rydym yn noddi cystadlaethau corawl yr Eisteddfod ers blynyddoedd, ac mae'r cyfle i weld côr ifanc o fechgyn o'r cymoedd – a grewyd ar gyfer Eisteddfod 2010 – ar un o'r rhaglenni teledu mwyaf poblogaidd yn brofiad arbennig.

"Pob llwyddiant iddyn nhw nos Sadwrn, a rydan ni hefyd yn edrych ymlaen i noddi cyngerdd agoriadol yr Eisteddfod eleni, lle bydd y bechgyn yn llenwi'r llwyfan yn Llandw."

Ewch i: www.eisteddfod.org.uk i brynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngerdd agoriadol neu ffoniwch y llinell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800.

The Vale Eisteddfod – what to expect?

IN four months' time, the Vale will host one of the world's greatest cultural festivals, the National Eisteddfod of Wales.

We've all heard the word 'Eisteddfod', but how much do we know about the National Eisteddfod of Wales and what we can expect when it comes to the Vale?

The National Eisteddfod of Wales is one of the great festivals of the world, attracting more than 150,000 visitors every year.

The Eisteddfod is a travelling festival which belongs to the people of Wales, wherever they live, and this is an integral part of its appeal.

The festival visits areas in north and south Wales alternately, and hosting the National Eisteddfod is a great boost for any area.

It's an ideal opportunity to take part in cultural activities in your area, and it's also a great opportunity to promote the region as a tourist destination.

The economic effect is huge, with the Eisteddfod contributing between £6–8 million to the local economy during the week.

Between August 4-11, the site of the Llandow Airfield will be transformed into a cultural mecca with the main festival site itself, or 'Maes', taking over a 35-acre site with car parking, and the official caravan and camping site situated nearby.

The main focal point of the Eisteddfod site will be the 2,000 seater pavilion. This huge pink marquee is the venue where, during the day, the main competitions and ceremonies are held.

In the evening, the Pavilion is transformed into a world-class concert venue. Performers this year will include Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Karl Jenkins, Rebecca Evans, Dennis O'Neill, Dafydd Iawn and Caryl Parry Jones to name only a few.

Add to that satellite pavilions which include a literature pavilion, theatre and dance pavilion, performance stages, contemporary art exhibition, open air performance stages featuring all sorts of music, performances and activities of all kinds for children, and more than 300 trade stands, the National Eisteddfod is a vibrant festival, which has something for everyone – whatever your age.

Only Boys Aloud shine on *Britain's Got Talent*

REMEMBER to use your vote on Saturday night to support Only Boys Aloud in the final of *Britain's Got Talent*!

The 140-strong male voice choir aged 14-19 from the Valleys were created especially for the Blaenau Gwent and Heads of the Valleys National Eisteddfod opening concert in 2010.

They have been a great success during the series, and the four judges have been impressed with their performances, both in the first round and in the semi-final over the weekend.

Elfed Roberts, National Eisteddfod Chief Executive, said: "I'm sure we've all enjoyed the rousing performances by Only Boys Aloud over the weekend, and we are pleased to see that many of their supporters have purchased tickets for this year's Eisteddfod opening concert since their success.

"We're encouraging everyone to support the boys in the final this weekend, and hope that they'll be successful in the competition.

"The Eisteddfod is very proud of our link with Only Boys Aloud, and that we've been involved since the beginning of the project, and gave them their first opportunity to perform two years ago.

"Good luck to them on Saturday."

The Principality Building Society are great supporters of the choir, and Pat Ashman, the company's sponsorship and events manager said: "The Principality has supported Only Boys Aloud since the start, and we are delighted with their success in reaching the final of *Britain's Got Talent*.

"This is not only a boost to them as a choir but to Wales as a whole, and is a wonderful stage for choral singing in Wales, which is also important to us as a company.

"We've been sponsoring the Eisteddfod choral competitions for a number of years, and the opportunity to see a choir of young boys from the Valleys on one of the most popular programmes on television is great.

Good luck to them on Saturday, and we're also looking forward to sponsoring the opening concert at the Eisteddfod this year, where the boys will shine on the Pavilion stage."

Go to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk to buy tickets for the opening concert or ring the ticketline on 0845 4090 800.

MAX BOYCE

Penarth Appeal Committee will be hosting a very special concert at the Paget Rooms in Penarth on May 26, when Max Boyce will be performing a concert to raise funds for the Eisteddfod.

The concert promises to be a 'night to remember' as Caryl Parry Jones will also be appearing, alongside rising stars Greta and Miriam Isaac from Cowbridge.

Tickets are priced at £25 and available from Foxy's Deli in Penarth.

Welsh phrase of the week, Ymadrodd yr wythnos:

'BETH sy'n digwydd?' (Beth scene dig-with?), which means: 'What's happening?'

SIONED EDWARDS

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00336/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Refurbishment and Extension of single residential dwelling house and integral garage
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Factory House, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Llanblethian

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00377/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: The construction of a single storey extension to the existing 6th Form study area and Cafeteria
Location:/Lleoliad: Stanwell School, Salisbury Avenue, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Conservation Area Consent /Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00337/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Refurbishment and extension of single resdential dwelling house and integral garage including demolition and rebuilding of boundary wall
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Factory House, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00342/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposed installation is for 1 No. 200mm squared (200mm x 200mm) communications antenna pole mounted to the South West elevation of the clock tower. A single data cable will be laid on the roof in a robber sheath and then clipped to the wall to the point of entry in the building. There is an internal cable run to the comms cabinet in the building. The antenna and pole will be painted dark red to match the background colour of the clock tower, thus making it as invisible as possible. The drawings that accompany this application include a photo montage showing how the building will look
Location:/Lleoliad: Penarth Library, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00346/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Retrospective application for emergency structural repairs to front bay and first and second floors including replacement bay window
Location:/Lleoliad: 41, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00397/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Minor alterations to rationalise the internal layout of the entrance and utility areas to the property.
Location:/Lleoliad: Downs Farm, Sully Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00367/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig: A new educational development combining St. Cyres School with the adjacent two SEN schools of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Ashgrove and the nearby Ysgol Maes Dyfan in Barry. External works for sports education. A new Toucan Crossing and traffic calming measures will control Sully Road traffic either side of the existing public footpath and the new vehicular access point. The existing main entrance along St Cyres Road will be retained for pedestrian access at the start and end of the school day and for infrequent emergency access and deliveries (Minute number 1979 May 2002)
Location:/Lleoliad: St. Cyres Comprehensive School, Penarth

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00228/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Agricultural workers dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: New Farm, Port Road, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00367/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig: A new educational development combining St. Cyres School with the adjacent two SEN schools of Ysgol Erw'r Delyn, Ashgrove and the nearby Ysgol Maes Dyfan in Barry. External works for sports education. A new Toucan Crossing and traffic calming measures will control Sully Road traffic either side of the existing public footpath and the new vehicular access point. The existing main entrance along St Cyres Road will be retained for pedestrian access at the start and end of the school day and for infrequent emergency access and deliveries (Minute number 1979 May 2002)
Location:/Lleoliad: St. Cyres Comprehensive School, Penarth

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Dated: 10th May, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry.
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 10 Mai, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
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Y Barri.
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11 11 Focus 1.6 TDCi Sport

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11 60 Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec

3-dr, alloys, air con, cd

10 10 Renault Clio 1.2T

5-dr, TomTom

09 09 Fiesta Zetec S

Street pack, bluetooth

S-Max Titanium 2.2 TDCi

18" alloys, sat nav, styling skirts

12 12 Fiesta 1.2 Style

Remote locking, elec windows, delivery miles

KA

12 12 KA Zetec, air con, alloys, delivery miles £8695
12 12 KA Edge, air con, delivery miles only £7995
09 09 KA Zetec 1.3 TDCi, alloys, aircon, blush £7295
06 06 KA Zetec 1.3 Collection, 1 owner, under 15,000 miles, air con £2995

FIESTA

12 12 Fiesta Zetec 1.25 82ps 3-dr, b/tooth privacy £10195
12 12 Fiesta Edge 1.25 60ps 3-dr, air con, frozen white .. £8995
12 12 Fiesta Style 1.25 60ps 3-dr, frozen white £8495
11 11 Fiesta Titanium 1.4 TDCi 5-dr, pantha black £10995
11 60 Fiesta Zetec 1.4 TDCi 5-dr, Vision, 43,000 miles ... £9895
11 60 Fiesta Zetec 1.6 TDCi 3-dr, moondust £9495
11 60 Fiesta Edge 1.4 TDCi 3-dr, midnight sky £8495
10 60 Fiesta Zetec 1.4 TDCi 3-dr, pantha black £9295
10 60 Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5-dr, Vision, blue £8695
10 60 Fiesta Titanium 1.4 5-Dr Auto Vision blue, Sony CD £7995
10 60 Fiesta Edge 1.25 60ps 5-dr, pantha black £7895
10 59 Fiesta Edge 1.25 60ps 3-dr, vision blue £6995
09 09 Fiesta Zetec S 1.6, street pack, bluetooth £8495
09 09 Fiesta Titanium 1.4 5-dr, blue £8195
09 09 Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5-Dr Squeeze £8295
09 09 Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5-Dr Auto. Hot Magenta £7995
09 09 Fiesta Style+ 1.4 Automatic 5-dr, choice £6995
09 09 Fiesta Style 1.2 82ps 3-dr, tango red £6495
09 58 Fiesta Zetec 1.2 5-dr, blue, tech pack, sports pack . £5495
08 08 Fiesta 1.4 TDCi Zetec 5-dr, Tango red £7495
08 08 Fiesta 1.6TDCi Zetec S 3-dr, panther black £6495
08 08 Fiesta Style 1.2 3-dr, Tango red £4495
04 04 Fiesta 1.4 Flame 5-dr, panther black £3295

FUSION

09 59 Fusion Titanium 1.6, ocean blue £6695
09 09 Fusion Zetec Climate 1.4, ocean blue, 6,000 miles . £5995
08 58 Fusion Plus 1.6 Automatic £5495
06 56 Fusion 1.4 TDCi Style Climate 5-dr, panther black . £4495
06 56 Fusion 1.4 TDCi Style 5-dr £4495

FOCUS

12 12 Focus Zetec 1.0T 125ps, appearance pack £13695
11 11 Focus Sport 1.6 TDCi 5-dr, sat nav, privacy, choice £10995
09 09 Focus 2.0CC 2 Coupe CAB, blue de cine £7995
08 08 Focus 1.8 Zetec 3-dr, sports pack £6995
05 05 Focus 1.6 LX 5-dr, under 40,000 miles, grey £3495
04 04 Focus 1.6 Ghia 5-dr, tonic blue £3495

C-MAX

11 11 C-Max Zetec 1.6 5-dr, ink blue £12695
09 59 S-Max 2.2 TDCi Titanium, styling kit, 18" alloys £15495

MONDEO

12 12 Mondeo Zetec 1.6 Eco Boost 5-dr £15995
11 60 Mondeo 2.0i Sport 5-dr, moondust silver £10495
11 11 Mondeo Zetec 2.0 TDCi 163ps 5-dr, f/lift £13495
10 60 Mondeo Sport 1.8 TDCi 5-Dr. Sat nav, black £11495
10 10 Mondeo Titanium X 2.0 TDCi 140ps 5-dr, pantha black £11375
10 10 Mondeo Zetec 2.0 TDCi 5-dr, sports pack £9995
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VOLUNTEERS ARE GIVEN A KICK-START INTO SPORTS COACHING

TWO volunteers from the Gibbonsdown area of Barry have been given a kick-start into sports coaching thanks to a special project, and are now leading free sports sessions for children in the local community.

Towards the end of last year, Mark Nickerson and Gareth Baynham were offered the chance to go on a 'Community Sports Leader Award' course over several weeks after the Vale Council's sports and play development team joined forces with the Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First Partnership.

Mark and Gareth are now putting the skills that they learned into practice at weekly sports sessions at Iolo Park in Gibbonsdown every Wednesday between 5pm and 6.30pm.

The sessions are completely free and are aimed at children aged four to 14, with the sports on offer including football, cricket, basketball, and more.

Ben Williams, the Vale Council's active young people co-ordinator said: "Mark and Gareth are perfect examples of volunteers wanting to make a difference in their local community. Thanks to the success of this initiative in Gibbonsdown we are also hoping for similar interest from further like-minded volunteers from other wards in Barry who would like to get into sports coaching."

Mark Nickerson (pictured) and Gareth Baynham are running free sports sessions at Iolo Park in the Gibbonsdown area of Barry for local children.

Rachel Davies, the community development officer for Gibbonsdown and Court Communities First, said: "The project is great for getting children of all ages playing together in this fantastic new park and teaching them new skills. We were very keen to get weekly provisions in the park to utilise the facilities and equipment.

"Mark and Gareth are great with the kids and we really hope to spin this out into other areas in the community in the future."

If you'd like to find out more about how you can get involved, call Rachel Davies on 01446 732406.

For further ideas of how all ages can get active in the Vale of Glamorgan, go online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay or follow the council's sports and play development team on Twitter @valesportsandplay.

Bombettes deliver a try scoring rout

BARRY Bombettes played against a spirited Rugby Lionesses touring team from Warwickshire.

From a Lioness' scrum, the Barry pack drove their counterparts backwards allowing Bannister at No 9 to feed her backs. Fullback Hill came into the line, breaking through to score the first home try, duly converted by K Jones.

K Jones took a quick tap to power over for the second try which she converted, and this set off at speed, passing winger Dixon, who was brought down with the try line in sight.

Following increased pressure Garner-Joel burst through the Lioness' defence on their 22 to power over for her first try of the season.

The Lionesses continued to battle hard, but were struggling against the Barry pack. The Lioness No 9 went off with a minor shoulder injury, resulting in Barry winger Nation sportingly swapping sides, allowing Rugby to field 15 players, B Jones replacing her on the wing.

From a good attacking position on the blind side, a swift exchange of passes between Bannister and K Jones resulted in Bannister scoring her first try of the season.

K Jones then took a quick tap and forged forward. She was ably supported by the tireless Richards who knocked back the would-be tacklers, and from the resultant pressure deep in the away 22, Captain Boffy drove forward to score her first try of the season.

With the Bombettes spirits high they started the second half perfectly, Garner-Joel stormed through some lacklustre tackling to sprint to score her second try; K Jones converted.

Richards, loving the freedom in the loose, burst forward before feeding Beare, who sprinted around the defence to score under the posts. Second row J Jones then showed her speed by also bursting down the right wing to score her first try.

K Jones then kicked behind the Rugby defence, though a speedy defender looked to have prevented a further score; she followed up and touched down as the defender couldn't gather the ball, Bannister showed her debut kicking boots by successfully converting two kicks from in front of the posts.

Dixon sportingly swapped positions and teams with Nation and played wing for the Lionesses making several try saving tackles on her team mates.

From a Barry scrum deep in the Rugby 22, No 8 Cole powered forward crossing the line with the defence helpless, K Jones and Bannister added another two tries bringing the final score to 72-0.

The eight different try scorers illustrated the team work this season.

Team: Northcott, Phillips, Richards, Cahill, J Jones, Garner-Joel, Cole, (c) Boffy, Bannister, K Jones, Nation, Yapp, Williams, Dixon, Hill, Beare, Horne and B Jones.

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Volvo V60 travels through life

SLOGANS are a useful way of remembering organisations.

For instance, hearing the phrase 'time well spent' makes me think of the National Trust, while 'the car in front' pushes Toyota into your mind.

Car manufacturers do love these phrases: BMW 'the ultimate driving machine' and Peugeot 'the drive of your life', for example. In fact, life plays an important part in such slogans as Volvo has chosen to also embrace it with 'Volvo. for life'.

Driving the Volvo V60 D3 Ocean Race estate certainly does handle all aspects of life, whether it be the arduous motorway commute, trips to the tip or much more enjoyable family times.

As you might expect,, safety is at the forefront of this vehicle. There's the Blis (blind spot) safety alert on the wing mirrors that's unavailable on most cars. This is triggered when the Volvo travels at a reasonable speed and there is a hidden car that might have escaped the driver's attention.

Dash past in the outside lane, and it rarely notices other vehicles on its left, unless they are high sided lorries.

If an obstacle appears that the car doesn't expect, a red light on the dash in front of the driver flashes to the accompaniment of a blaring siren, which is utterly frightening and I feel, uncalled for.

Where I live, there are some traffic lights on a right hand bend and as you travel past, the Volvo's radar senses them and all hell breaks loose. Thank goodness no passengers of a sensitive disposition were travelling with me on that occasion. The same can happen if a car pushes its way in front of the Volvo, which has greater value.

Refreshingly, cruise control doesn't cancel out when changing gear as is usually the way in most other cars.

Volvo claims that up to 90 per cent of accidents are caused by distraction, and that half of all drivers hitting a car from behind do not brake at all.

To combat this, the V60 is equipped with a useful function that measures the distance of the car in front, keeping the Swede a safe

distance behind. The gap can be increased or decreased by the driver. This works especially well for motorway cruising, automatically and smoothly braking and accelerating as required.

However, this function does cancel out at speeds under 20 mph or so, as it is linked to the cruise control. This really could do with improving, because accidents do occur while driving at low speeds, too.

I can see how this function could be used to prevent many low speed collisions, if only it worked at such speeds.

In torrential rain the radar gets blocked, cancelling out the cruise control.

A well-insulated cabin ensures that there is only a hint of a rattle from the two-litre diesel unit on start up and from then on you don't notice.

It's fantastically fuel efficient, too – around 700 miles on its 67.5 litre tank. Auto stop-start aids this frugality, although like its driver, this function gets bored after five minutes and restarts.

How do I know this? I have been stuck in recurring roadworks for the past week that regularly exceed five minutes and continue for more like 20 minutes. When finally out of the jams, the V60 will confidently travel at speed, providing great enjoyment on clear country lanes.

It is also fitted with Volvo's e-Drive mode, which further helps economy. The six-speed box is pleasing to use, although on occasions it can be indecisive when choosing second gear.

The sat nav alerts the driver to the fact they're entering the London congestion charge zone, but this needs updating as it is free on weekends or public holidays.

The V60 is a comfortable executive express, equipped with quickclear windscreen demisters and heated front seats.

All the usual luxuries are included, such as electric windows and air con. The dashboard is similar to that of an Alfa Romeo because it is angled in the driver's favour, much to my wife's disappointment. The radio reception could be stronger.

Externally, the V60 is a curvaceous beauty – Volvo has taken the old V60 and rounded off the edges with great success, producing a very fashionable and sought-after cool estate car.

However, there are some blind spots, making it feel a little cumbersome on occasions, mainly when manoeuvring and reversing, but its safety systems help with this.

Unlocking the car is simple – as long as the driver has the key on them. The Volvo intelligently recognises this fact and all you have to do is place a hand on a door handle for it to open. This is a much appreciated feature during April showers, as it means you get in the car very quickly without the usual faff associated with car keys.

If the driver has the key on them there's no need to insert the key in the dash to start the car. Instead just put your feet on the clutch and brake and push the start button and it fires into life.

There isn't a traditional handbrake; instead a switch on the right of the dash – you just push it down to unlock or engage, but there is a slight delay. The wing mirrors automatically fold when it's locked.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "Volvo is best known for large and practical estates and the V60 remains the core model for the manufacturer – a modern version of its archetypal load carrier."

As you would expect the V60 is a splendid driver's car loaded with safety features.

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TIM SANDERS

Penarth Town under-15s savour Cup glory

Both Penarth Town and Cogan B under-15s approached the cup final in high expectation, lying second and third respectively in the league with games in hand on the leaders.

Penarth were bringing a 21-match unbeaten record to Jenner Park and started the better, dominating the midfield and looking to punish Cogan's early nerves.

After eight minutes, Penarth pounced as Brad Rosser took advantage of the hesitant Cogan defence and slipped the ball past the exposed keeper.

Cogan started to suffocate the Penarth midfield who, in turn, misplaced passes, but Penarth's resolute defence held out for a 1 – 0 half time lead.

Tactical changes were made at half-time and Caynon Bowen almost put Keeling through. Just a minute later, he had the Cogan midfield back-tracking as he dribbled from the right, cut in and beat two defenders, and shot from 25 yards – the ball screaming into the top left hand corner.

Cogan, desperate to get back into the game with just 20 minutes remaining, upped the tempo once again and tried hard to close down ball to the Penarth channels. This was calmly dealt with by Oscar Kempton, James Squire Wood and Rowlands, who manfully played the full game with two broken fingers.

With 10 minutes remaining the contest was effectively over when Cogan succumbed to patient but purposeful Penarth play that led to a barrage of pressure.

Thomas put a great ball through with Murphy overpowering two defenders to slot the ball home.

Cogan kept battling right to the final whistle but outstanding defending in the last 10 minutes by Jack Davies and Tom Farmer saw Penarth deservedly win the cup final 3 – 0 in what was a thoroughly entertaining match, played in great sprit by two worthy finalists.

Winning squad: Mattie Roberts and Tomas Havard (both injured); Sean Rowlands, Oscar Kempton, Declan Thomas, Gethin Evans-Cooper, James-Squire Woods, Brad Rosser, Niall Murphy, Jamie Hitchen, Sam Lehty, Duncan Keeling, Caynon Bowen, Jack Davies, Tom Farmer, Alex Gillingham.

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COWBRIDGE CRICKET ROUND-UP

First XI early victories establish 'a solid base'

ANOTHER cold Saturday in May saw Llanelli First XI at the Athletic Ground for the second match of Cowbridge first XI's season.

Tom Merilaht resumed the captaincy and won the toss. He asked the visitors to bat in the light of the overcast day and the enormous amount of rain that has fallen on the cricket field during the week.

That there was any play at all was owing to the efforts of Tim Williams in trying conditions throughout the week.

The Llanelli openers found batting extremely difficult on a very slow wicket while facing the accurate bowling of Ryan Taylor, and Tom Warner, who was making his debut for the club.

Progress was slow with the first wicket falling to Ryan in the eighteenth over when the score had reached 41. Very slowly and carefully, Iwan Rees (69) and Adam Coates (38) took the score to 112, when the second wicket fell.

Tom Warner had just begun his second spell when he had immediate success. He bowled Rees, who had batted for 35 overs, and ripped out the middle order that trudged back to the pavilion without adding to the score.

When Sam Wood brilliantly caught Coates off Tom Warner the innings collapsed to 142 all out. Tom had taken 5 wickets for 7 runs in five overs, eventually ending with 5 for 24 off 15 overs. Even on this slow early season wicket the batsmen had no answer to his pace and accuracy.

Ryan Taylor had done his job efficiently early in the innings by restricting the batsmen. In his fifteen overs he had figures of 1 wicket for 30 runs.

Another Tom, the skipper this time, helped to finish off the opposition with 3- 25 off ten overs.

In the not too distant past a low score posted by their opponents has proved a very difficult target for the Cowbridge batsmen, but not on this occasion. Victory was achieved with the loss of just two wickets.

Tom Merilaht's return brought the usual stability to the innings as he batted throughout, and was 60 not out at the end.

Sam Wood (39), with another brilliant performance keeping wicket earlier, ably supported Tom as they put on 62 for the second wicket.

Faris (26 not out) remained with the skipper until the game was won in the 38th over. He appeared comfortable and confident at the crease and sealed victory with a sweetly timed four through extra cover. He remains unbeaten so far this season.

These last two victories in the league have created a solid base for the coming season. We need these performances to continue.

Next Saturday the First XI is at home again and the visitors will be Morriston.

All support is welcome. The Second XI is away.

DL

COWBRIDGE 2ND XI'S FIND THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

On Saturday afternoon, the Cowbridge 2nd XI travelled to Llanelli to play their first league match of the season, winning a tight and exciting game by just one run.

With stand-in skipper Chris Ross losing the toss, Cowbridge were invited to bat first. As is the case in many early season matches, winning or losing the toss can be vital, and the green and spongy wicket didn't look too inviting as the Cowbridge openers took guard.

Although runs were slow to come by, the visitors cautiously accumulated 15 from 7 overs before Jon Brazier was caught for 11. A flurry of wickets then followed leaving the visitors reeling at 29-4 with Nick Rowland also out for 10.

Over the next 45 minutes or so, Chris Ross (19) and Ian Evans repaired some of this damage to bring the visitors score to 50-4. Unfortunately, they soon both departed in quick succession to leave Cowbridge really in the mire at 67-7.

The Cowbridge tail, comprising mostly of junior players began to wag rather gently in the breeze and this helped the visitors' total to limp along to 92 all out.

Before Cowbridge took to the field there was a steadfast determination amongst the players that they would try to make the home team work as hard as possible for every run by bowling tightly and giving everything in the field. It was this ethic that helped to bring an unlikely victory.

The pace of Umar Rafique was complemented with the 'evergreen' John Gilbert who immediately found his usual nagging line and length. Llanelli soon found themselves behind the clock and struggling at 33-2 off 20 overs. With the runs beginning to dry up, the pressure began to mount on the batsmen and suddenly the small target began to look more difficult to attain.

The introduction of Matthew Keating and the return of Rafique finally brought the significant breakthrough needed. Wickets began to tumble and the home team seemed apparently stranded on 60-8.

Although it seemed that the tide had turned in favour of the visitors, the home team's skipper and opening bowler were now batting at each end of the pitch and a succession of stinging blows suddenly brought target within reach.

At 91-8, there were 3 balls left of the 39th over. Matt Keating produced the ball of the day, pitching it outside of off stump to hit leg stump and so dismiss the Llanelli skipper. This brought the home team number eleven out to take guard. After surviving his first ball, he then lofted his second delivery into the safe hands of Ian Evans and a famous victory was secured.

Although it was a fantastic team effort with everyone playing their part, It would be remiss not to mention the efforts of all the youngsters who played on Saturday; George Brown, Zac Summerhayes, Sean Boga-Lake and Matthew Keating, who all fielded superbly and contributed with the bat and ball in often difficult conditions. Well done to them.

CR

Under-14s reach final

COWBRIDGE RFC under-14's played away to Rhiwbina in the semi final of this year's Blues Cup - with the hosts having a fantastic record in the tournament in past years.

Cowbridge got off to a poor start conceding a penalty after five minutes - a quick tap from the opposition caught the Cowbridge pack napping to allow Rhiwbina in for a soft try.

The remainder of the half was well contested with Cowbridge having the lion's share of the possession but failing to get points on the board until Joe Davies broke though the defence, after a succession of tapped penalties, to register Cowbridge's first try.

Eugene Richards put over a penalty just before half time to give Cowbridge an 8 - 5 interval lead.

The Cowbridge coaching duo of Dan Williams and Ed Lucas demanded an intensified performance in the second half, and it was not long in coming with a usual bulldozing run from Frazz McGhan who crashed through the Rhiwbina defence to score - the try was converted by Eugene Richards.

Within a few minutes of the re-start the ball was passed out to the wing where Nathan Robson ran in powerfully for another try from his own half.

Rhiwbina were still playing strongly and scored a well converted try to keep the game very much alive - however the game was put to bed by a try from Eugene Richards who ran through the centre of the Rhiwbina defence to score under the posts - he converted his own score to post a lead of 27- 12.

Due to a succession of injuries there was a great deal of injury time to play and Rhiwbina scored one more try to give a final score of 27 - 17.

The Cowbridge team now contest the final against Treorchy at the Arms Park.

TEAM - George Thomas, Tom Evans, Jac Davies, Jack Anderson, Fraser McGhan, Ed Couzens, Ellis Poulden, Luke John, Ben Jones, Josh Brace, Joe Davies, Tom Lucas, Matt Harper, Hywel Williams, Ashford Thomas, Nathan Robson, Pete Anderson, Gabe Newham, Eugene Richards, Liam Sloane.

GD

GOOD START FOR TENNIS TEAM

COWBRIDGE Men's Second team's first match of the season, against local rivals Llantrisant, started with mild panic.

Harry Harpin had to pull out at the last minute due to a football injury, but fortunately Paul Arnold stepped in and gave a magnificent performance.

Paired with Henry Mehta the two deuce courts players flipped a coin to decide who would cover the advantage court for the night, with the duty falling on Henry - and it turned out well for the pair.

They stormed through their first match, taking the first set without loss before losing the first couple of games in the second set and then finishing off the match with another 6 straight games giving a 6-0, 6-2 result. Their second match was almost as emphatic as our lads pulled out a 6-1, 6-3 win.

Meanwhile, father and son pair, Warren and Joe Davies took the long route to victory winning their first match but finishing 30 minutes after their next opponents.

Already tired from the longest match, they entered an epic battle against Llantissant's top pair. Both sets went to a tie break, and at the outset of the second only Joe didn't look like he was about to drop from exhaustion, but after 3 hours on court we took the second set for a win.

The final pairing of John Edwards and Sean Lake strolled through their first match winning it 6-2, 6-4.

Their second match was somewhat tighter, losing the first set 2-6 and having won the second 6-4 they went to a championship tie break. Unfortunately we didn't manage a clean sweep as Llantisant managed to pick up the tie break.

Overall an excellent start to the season, winning 5 matches to 1 against our local rivals, the team are aiming for promotion.

We run regular tennis lessons for all standards at the club. Visit www.cowbridgetennis.webs.com for more information.

HM

Williams gets one over on his brother!

THE Vale's William Vaughan has achieved something that his more illustrious brother Tim has never achieved – saddle a winner at Cheltenham Racecourse.

William, who trains a small string of point-to-pointers, saw his nine-year-old grey gelding *Silver Story* land the Cheltenham Collection Hunter Chase last Wednesday under Bradley Gibbs who rides out for Tim at his Aberthin stables.

Silver Story, who is owned by retired Rhondda greengrocer Norman Jones, won by three and three quarter lengths from *Whizzaar* at odds of 7-1 and William told me that Tim was straight on the phone to congratulate him.

As for Tim, twenty-four hours later at Hereford, his ten-year-old *Got The Urge* landed the Butty Bach Handicap Chase at odds of 20-1. *Got The Urge* was partnered by Irishman Jason Kiely who was riding his first winner under rules.

Tim's horses are as a rule are well backed but this time *Got The Urge* opened up at 8-1 and went out in the betting so couldn't have had many supporters.

However, the last time *Got The Urge* was succesful was when it won at Limerick some time ago on similar heavy ground to what it was at Hereford and on that occasion was only a 7-2 chance!

EVAN AND TIM IN TOP TEN

Llancarfan's Evan Williams and Aberthin's Tim Vaughan finished ninth and tenth respectively in the Racing Post Weekender's Top Ten list of winning trainers for the season just ended.

Evan sent out 88 winners which won prize money totalling £588,367; and Tim saddled 102 winners bringing his total of prize money won to £547,816.

In eighth place came Anglo-Welshman Nigel Twiston-Davies with a total of £666,757.

No prizes for guessing that champion trainer Paul Nicholls again headed the list with total prize monery of £3,297,804.

SCREENSCRAPER SUCCESS

***Screenscraper*, a seven-year-old brown gelding owned by Gordon Lewis and Gordon Bird who are both from the Vale of Glamorgan, was a 25 lengths winner of the Tredegar Farmers' Members Race at Lower Machen last weekend.**

A winner of a two-and-a-half mile hurdle race at Perth in 2009, *Screenscraper* outjumped his two rivals *Stoneriggs Merc* and *Bob Bank Boy* who was eventually pulled. *Screenscraper* was ridden by Alice Mills, who earlier in the week had won a flat race at Lingfield Park and who was riding over the course for the first time.

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